

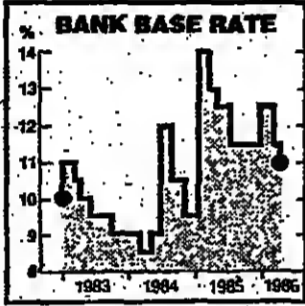
Another cut expected as base rate falls

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The big four clearing banks cut the cost of borrowing for industry and consumers yesterday with a surprise reduction in their base lending rate.

Optimism over lower interest rates did not prevent further weakness in the stock market where share prices fell back sharply in late trading.

Dealers in London money markets also believed the dollar's weakness was due partly to reports from Washington that finance ministers of the five largest industrial nations are expected to agree to co-ordinate worldwide reductions in interest rates and to weaken the strengthening dollar.



Tomorrow Beckett at 80

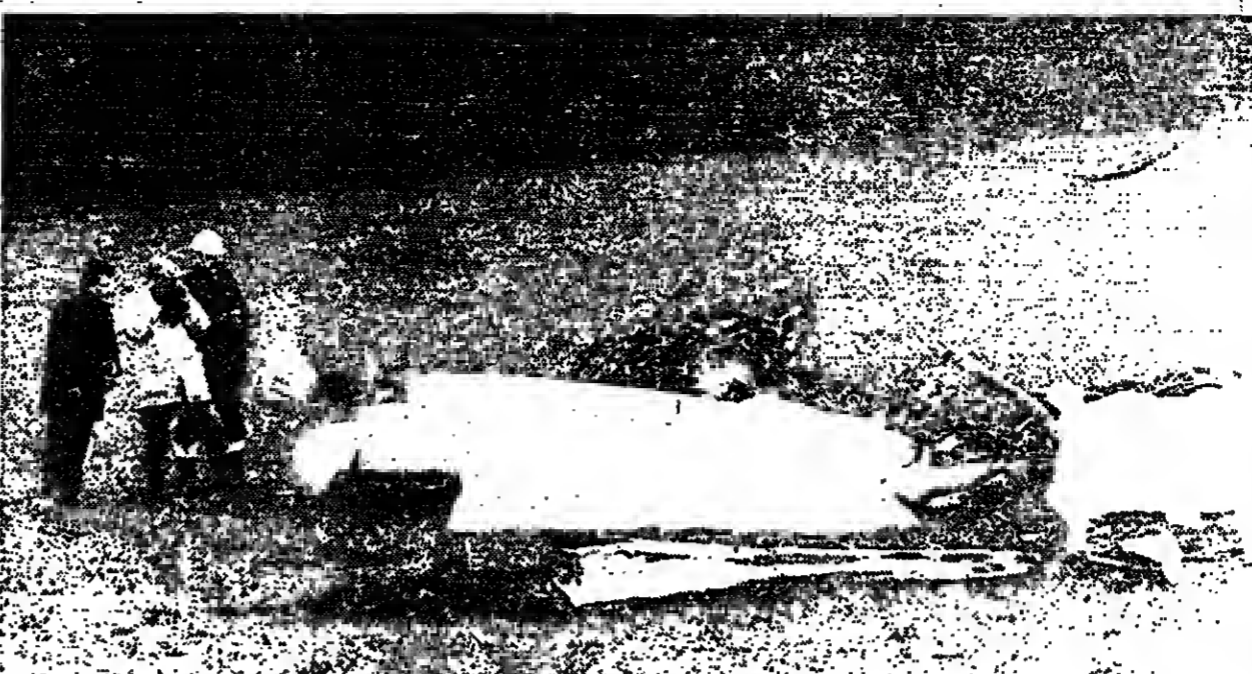
Samuel Beckett, the playwright who made the absurd seem logical, is profiled by Anthony Burgess. High society in oils: James Fenton on John Singer Sargent, portrait painter.

Portfolio: The £4,000 prize in The Times Portfolio daily competition, double the usual amount because there was no winner the previous day, was shared yesterday by five readers, each receiving £800.

Bomb kills 10: A car bomb which exploded near a Phalangist Party office in Jounieh killed at least 10 people and marked resumption of the battle for Lebanon's Maronite heartland.

Labour battle: The Labour Party faces an uphill task in the two by-elections due after Fulham, which goes to the polls tomorrow. A special Times/MORI survey in all three constituencies looks behind the poll figures.

Table with 2 columns: News Category and Page Number. Includes Home News, Overseas, Arts, Births, Deaths, Marriages, Business, Chess, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Features.



The wreckage of the helicopter which crashed killing six people near Banbury yesterday (Photograph: John Manning)

Six die as helicopter crashes into hill

By Craig Seton

The pilot of a crashing helicopter which skinned the roof of a house before it slammed into a field and burst into flames, killing all six people on board, including four children.

The twin-engine French-built Squirrel crashed into a hillside only 200 yards from houses at Swadcliffe, six miles from Banbury, after narrowly missing the 70ft high tower of the parish church.

Among the dead were the wife and two sons of the helicopter's owner, Mr Philip Coussens, a multi-millionaire, who was in Germany on business. The helicopter was owned by Mr Coussens's company, International Helicopters and Leasing of Virginia Water, Surrey, and was operated on his behalf by McAlpine Helicopters of Hayes, Middlesex.

A spokesman for McAlpine said: "About 10 miles south-west of Banbury, the pilot put out a distress call saying he had engine failure. We lost contact shortly after that. The pilot was named last night as Mr Jeremy Howe, aged 38, a father of three from Hampshire, who had worked for the company for three years and was formerly with the Army Air Corps. He was described as an experienced pilot with more than 4,000 hours flying time."

He had taken off from Hayes and at Pangbourne, Berkshire, had picked up Mrs Val Coussens, her sons Nigel, aged 16, and Stephen, aged 13, from Pangbourne, and two other children who were friends of the family, before flying north towards Alton Towers. Last night, the other children had not been named.

Mr Coussens learned of the tragedy by telephone yesterday and immediately left to fly home. Department of Transport and Civil Aviation Authority crash investigators were yesterday examining the burned out wreckage of the helicopter to find out the cause of its apparent engine failure and to discover if only one or both engines had failed.

Washington calls off underground nuclear blast test

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States yesterday unexpectedly cancelled an underground nuclear test that would almost certainly have led to the end of the Soviet Union's eight-month unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing.

The Department of Energy refused to give an immediate explanation, but Administration sources attributed the delay to the weather. News of the cancellation came as Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader confirmed to President Reagan that he was ready for a summit in the US later this year, although the two sides continue to haggle about the date.

The superpowers moved closer to a summit after a 75-minute meeting - an hour longer than planned - between President Reagan and Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the outgoing Soviet Ambassador to Washington, which included discussions on American underground nuclear tests and other questions affecting superpower relations.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State announced later that Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, would meet him in Washington next month to prepare for the summit, which the US would prefer to be in June or July.

Mr Shultz emphasized that Mr Dobrynin, who has been Ambassador for 24 years, did not present any preconditions for the summit. Both sides wanted to achieve significant results and therefore wanted the meeting to be carefully prepared.

Yesterday's planned test in Nevada, codenamed "Mighty Oak", was to have tested the impact of a nuclear blast on ground warheads. Scores of Congressmen of both parties had urged the Administration to postpone it in the hope of reaching an overall nuclear test ban treaty with the Soviet Union.

Challenge to Powell on Ulster

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Ulster crisis plunged the Commons into bitter turmoil yesterday as Ulster Unionist MPs were accused of deliberately attempting to subvert democracy and encourage Mr Enoch Powell was challenged by Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to stand up and condemn anti-police violence.

Earlier, the Prime Minister had told the House the Anglo-Irish accord could only bring peace and stability to Ulster with the goodwill and active co-operation of "decent men and women on both sides of the community."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher then cited the words of Burke, saying: "All that is required for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing. Now is the time for good men to make their views known."

That challenge was later put directly to Mr Powell, the Official Unionist MP for South Down, who said the Government had been warned about the consequences of the agreement with Dublin.

Mr King said: "I hoped that he would have felt able to include in his remarks his condemnation of the violence being shown to the RUC." With Mr Powell shouting across the chamber - and the word "humbug" clearly heard in the hubbub - Mr King added: "I think it is very regrettable indeed and I hope now to say it, even in another place."

But Mr John Hume, the Social Democratic and Labour MP for Foyle, told the House: "Those policemen in Northern Ireland, who are so clearly in difficult circumstances, impartially upheld the rule of law in Northern Ireland last week. They deserve not just the commendation of the House but the support of the House."

Continued on page 2, col 7

Frigate in secret night launch

From Peter Davenport, Newcastle upon Tyne

The Royal Navy's latest warship was launched in secret yesterday to foil a shipyard strike in an operation finalized over after-dinner brandy with senior Admiralty officers.

At 3.45am, 12 hours earlier than scheduled, the type 22 frigate, HMS Coventry, built to replace her destroyer namesake sunk in the Falklands with a loss of 19 lives, was slipped into the River Tyne by a 100-strong management team from the Swan Hunter yard.

The undercover plan had been drawn up by senior management who feared that a demonstration by some of the 2,000 workers who walked out on unofficial strike in a pay and conditions dispute would disrupt and delay the planned ceremony.

They were determined to deliver the £100 million frigate on time to further their claim for a £240 million Ministry of Defence order for two new vessels against their rivals Harland and Wolff in Belfast.

The secret launch ceremony, conducted in driving rain and gale force winds under special floodlights in a deserted shipyard, took place shortly before a Cabinet committee met to discuss the order for the two auxiliary oil replenishment vessels.

In the event, the economic committee postponed a decision for at least another week because of deep divisions among ministers. After the launch Mr Alex Marsh, a managing director, said: "We had been worried that a small section of our workforce were not prepared to launch the ship and that there could be a demonstration."

"It is not a question of it being one in the eye for the unions. We are not in the business of scoring points at the expense of the unions. We are in the business of building ships, and delivering them on time."

Mr Marsh said that Swan Hunter was not going to be bullied by strikers. "Demonstrations don't help matters. I find it very sad that people should treat something as important as this without the respect it deserves. We hope the relatives of the people that died on the Coventry will not feel too disappointed. I wish they could have seen the ship going into the water, but it was not possible in the circumstances. Our main commitment is to the customer. The decision to go ahead with the secret launch was Continued on page 20, col 3

'Violent' prisoner free after raid on hospital

By Stewart Tisdler, Crime Reporter

An "extremely dangerous" high-security prisoner awaiting trial for attempted murder was on the run last night after being freed by a gang in a raid on a west London hospital.

Alan Robert Knowlden, aged 35, was freed by men armed with iron bars, ammunition and possibly a shotgun shortly after dawn yesterday, as he lay in a ward at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he was to receive surgery. Three prison officers were overpowered before Mr Knowlden and his rescuers disappeared.

As a watch on air and sea ports began, Scotland Yard officers were expected to interview the missing man's wife, who visited him with two others on Monday after he was brought from Wormwood Scrubs prison for treatment on a fractured nose.

The visit, in the presence of prison officers, was described by other patients in the ward as long and loud. Officers were also investigating the prisoner's move to hospital and the arrangements for his guard. When a senior detective was asked yesterday if Mr Knowlden had been given beer the night before he vanished the policeman refused to comment.

Mr Knowlden was committed for trial by Clerkenwell Magistrates Court last No-



Mr Alan Knowlden, who was on the run last night. Knowlden was involved in an incident with a prison officer in which he received two black eyes and a fractured nose. Mr Knowlden is believed to have claimed he was beaten up. He has received treatment from prison medical staff and a consultant. On Monday it was decided to move him to St Mary's for an operation on his nose. The hospital was chosen because of the treatment it could offer. Mr Knowlden was put in a Continued on page 2, col 5

Labour councillors face poll ban

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The district auditor yesterday took steps which could end in the surcharge and disqualification of 300 Labour councillors, including several parliamentary candidates and some of the party's best-known local names.

Mr Brian Skinner, auditor for the metropolitan districts, has found discrepancies in the 1985-86 accounts of five London boroughs, Greenwich, Camden, Southwark, Hackney and Islington. All delayed setting rates last spring, and most waited for up to two months despite being warned of mounting losses.

Queen's birthday present goes pop

By Alan Hamilton

The Queen is to be greeted on her 60th birthday in April by children, flowers, and more than a touch of show business schmand.

An unofficial committee formed to mark the anniversary on April 21 yesterday unveiled a pop record, performed by the Band of the Grenadier Guards and children from St John's College School, Cambridge, of a song which 6,000 children will sing in the courtyard of Buckingham Palace as the Queen listens from the balcony.

With lyrics like "We saw your car, Hurrah! Hurrah! Arriving at the gate, We saw you wave your hand as you went through," and "Happy birthday Ma'am God bless you, With great work still to do, Think of April's voice and take heart, From hearts still new," and a chirpy, brassy accompaniment, the organizers hope the record will reach the top of the charts. At the Queen's request,

Lonrho in attack on Whitehall

Lonrho, the international trading company, yesterday attacked the Government and Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, over an alleged "false offer document" in the takeover battle for House of Fraser won by the Al-Fayed brothers of Egypt more than a year ago.

Lonrho's chairman, Mr Edward du Cann, said the Government blocked the Lonrho bid but allowed "unknown foreigners" in after only a cursory glance at their credentials. He added: "Perhaps even more criticism should be levelled at those who misled the authorities by the warranties they gave as to the financial standing of the purchasers."

A spokesman for Kleinwort Benson, which issued the offer document on behalf of the Al-Fayed brothers, declined to comment. Details, page 21



John Woodcock, pages 16, 40

Advertisement for SAA (South African Airways) move to Heathrow Terminal 1. Includes text: 'FROM APRIL 12TH SAA move to Heathrow Terminal 1. To and from South Africa, SAA offer one-terminal simplicity at Heathrow Terminal 1. Connections with other airports throughout the UK, Ireland and Europe. More choice of non-stops to and from South Africa.' Includes SAA logo and contact information.

Sir Keith signals move from education post as speculation grows

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, yesterday appeared to accept that his days at the department were numbered after growing speculation that the Prime Minister was preparing to replace him.

During Commons questions on education, Sir Keith spoke of "the department of which I am at present the head" and "the department of which I am at the moment the head".

But Mr Giles Radice, the Opposition spokesman asked for Sir Keith's resignation.

He said: "As an honest man, will he accept that when the candidates for the succession so publicly and obviously submit their competitive job applications, and when he has clearly lost the confidence of pupils, teachers and local authorities, the time has come for him to stand down and let somebody else clear up the mess?"

Sir Keith replied: "It is one of the by-products of the present tragic situation in schools that all parties in this House acknowledge that higher standards from state education services are greatly to be desired for the benefit of all children and the benefit of the country.

"I am hopeful that out of that general recognition much good can come from the present miseries."

Sir Keith has responded angrily to a report in *The Times* yesterday about proposed cuts in polytechnic places. He suggests that the cuts either will not or do not have to happen.

In a letter, published in today's issue, Sir Keith makes clear his annoyance with the National Advisory Body for making proposals for cuts to student numbers based on a single, pessimistic guess about the likely level of funding in the academic year 1987-88.

He says he has repeatedly asked the body, which advises him on public sector higher education, to plan for a number of possibilities, but it has chosen not to do this.

Sir Keith appears to suspect the NAB of "crying wolf" to bring more money out of the Treasury. He says no decisions have been taken about levels of funding, or closure of polytechnic courses or departments.

NAB officials, acting on instructions from its committee, have estimated that 9,500 student places will have to go next year because funding is £13 million below what is needed.

They propose that science and engineering places should be cut by between 5 and 6 per cent, and the humanities and science by 17 per cent, to make an overall cut of 7 per cent to student numbers.

Confidential letters spelling out how that would affect each polytechnic and college were received on Monday. The proposals, which show, for example, departments of civil engineering and fine art having to close down, will now be subject to consultation.

The committee will make its decisions in the autumn and these will be sent as recommendations to Sir Keith.

The NAB has decided it must safeguard the quality of its courses, and will therefore abandon its previous policy of taking more and more students for the same amount of money.

Sir Keith implicitly rejects this argument. He says that even if it is right about funding, it does not have to cut student numbers because its staff/student ratio is still below target.

Polytechnic and college lecturers received a 7.25 per cent pay increase last year on condition that they worked more efficiently.

Parliament, page 4



Lord Whitelaw tries his hand at playing the sitar during a visit to the Institute of Indian Affairs while canvassing in the Fulham by-election yesterday (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Prescott offers Fulham jobs prospect

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The prospect of 4,000 jobs being created in the Fulham area during the first two years of a Labour government was offered yesterday by Labour's employment spokesman, Mr John Prescott.

But in the run-up to tomorrow's by-election he said that the jobs were almost certainly dependent on Labour's winning control of the local authority in next month's council elections and preparing a special package of job-creating measures in advance of Mr Neil Kinnock's becoming Prime Minister.

The effect of allowing local authorities to spend £6 billion of capital receipts from council house sales, putting unemployed construction workers back to work and increasing the house building programme, which was over 2,000 homes a week less than Labour's record.

Unemployment in Fulham, which has been one of the main strands in the campaign of the Labour candidate, Mr Nick Raynsford, has increased from 4.5 per cent to about 13 per cent since 1979.

What we say to the local authorities is that Labour's one million jobs will require them to put their packages together in a special investment fund that we are now planning as a party", Mr Prescott said.

The Conservative candidate, Mr Matthew Carrington, returned to his familiar by-election tactic of attacking the extremists in the Labour Party and claimed that he would get more than 40 per cent of votes to give him victory.

His canvassing returns, which he insists on keeping secret, unlike his two opponents, put him "very well ahead", with the SDP support collapsing fast, he said to the surprise of by-election observers.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Kenneth Baker, joined the assault on Labour's hard left by saying that Mr Raynsford, a moderate Labour candidate,

Miners' case to be heard in January

By a Staff Reporter

An action by the Receiver of the National Union of Mineworkers, seeking damages and costs against those responsible for putting £8.5 million of union assets outside the reach of sequestrators, should be tried some time next January, a High Court judge decided yesterday.

Mr Justice Warner had been asked by the Receiver, Mr Michael Arnold, for a date in October, but the judge said it was "unlikely" that justice would be done if the trial was that early.

Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, Mr Mick McAhey, NUM vice-president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, who are being sued as former trustees of the union, did not oppose an October trial.

Opposition to an early trial came from several defendant banks, which allegedly transferred union funds out of reach.

Their counsel emphasized the complexity of the case and said it would be unrealistic to expect them to be ready for the trial, which is expected to last two months, in October.

The receivership has recovered union funds transferred overseas. The claims were for the difference between the funds recovered and the money that could have been obtained if the funds had been properly invested within British jurisdiction.

Bamford outlines Land Rover bid

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

A team from J C Bamford, the North Staffordshire manufacturer of construction machinery, presented an outline proposal of a bid for Land Rover yesterday to Hill Samuel, the BL advisers.

Mr Anthony Bamford, chairman and managing director, said that he was approached by the Department of Trade and Industry more than six months ago to make a bid, but then the Government refused to separate Land Rover from the Leyland truck and bus operation.

"We were not interested in the commercial vehicle side so we did not pursue the matter at that time. However, more recently the position changed and they are now ready to accept proposals for Land Rover Ltd."

Mr Bamford said that his privately owned Midlands-based company was highly

profitable and rapidly growing. It was founded 40 years ago by his father and was a world leader. It was particularly strong in Europe and North America, where Land Rover marketing was weak.

Last year, the Bamford company JCB made a pre-tax profit of £25 million and more important, has never shown a loss. It had an impressive 27.3 per cent return on investment and had no borrowings. All growth has been financed from profits.

JCB had no plans to "make a fast buck" by floating Land Rover on the Stock Exchange. It would become a privately owned family company.

He saw no problems in raising the purchase price or subsequent financing to develop new models. "With our financial strength we have very strong borrowing facilities."

BL has set Tuesday as the deadline for proposals.

Sales loss of £240m claimed

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Austin Rover lost sales of up to 40,000 cars worth £240 million at retail prices in the past three months because of damaging speculation about a takeover by Ford, it was claimed yesterday (our Motoring Correspondent writes).

Mr Mark Snowdon, Austin Rover's managing director of product development, said that, despite the threat to Ford being removed by the Government, his company was still suffering from the continued speculation about the future of other companies in the BL group.

He said the latest upheaval came after a damaging "long, cold summer" last year when the BL Corporate Plan was awaiting approval by the Government.

Mr Snowdon also announced that agreement had just been signed to use surplus capacity at the company's Longbridge plant to build 4,000 Honda Ballades annually for sale in Britain.

£3.5m campaign launched to promote job schemes

By Gavin Bell

The Secretary of State for Employment, Lord Young of Grafham, yesterday launched a £3.5 million campaign to publicize government employment schemes after research showed widespread ignorance of the programmes run by his department and the Manpower Services Commission.

The essential element of the campaign is a 40-page booklet *Action for Jobs* that brings together for the first time information on more than 30 schemes, ranging from community employment opportunities to training facilities and incentives for starting and expanding small businesses.

More than two million copies have been distributed to Post Offices, job centres and unemployment benefit offices throughout England, Scotland and Wales. Advertisements are planned in national and about seventy regional evening newspapers, as well as on commercial radio stations.

We are reaching out to the unemployed and to the employed", Lord Young told a press conference, "to those who have been out of work for a long time and have given up hope, and to those who want to employ them by establishing or expanding small businesses."

Lord Young said that the aim of the campaign was not to create jobs but to show how to take advantage of government help and opportunities. There were 800,000 places to

be filled in the various schemes over the next year. "I have become increasingly conscious that people are left bewildered by the variety of opportunities available to them. They are confused by, or ignorant of, the range of our activities."

Mr Morgan Johnson, the managing director of an advertising agency involved in the project, said research last July showed that more than half of those interviewed could not name a single government employment scheme, while most employers felt the schemes were confusing in their nature and not sufficiently publicized.

Department officials said the booklet would be mailed to careers advisers

UDR man dies in booby-trap blast

By Gavin Bell

Republican terrorists killed an off-duty member of the security forces yesterday as a "loyalist" mob continued to bring terror by attacking the homes of off-duty officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Private William Pollock, aged 27, a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment, died after a booby-trap bomb exploded as he hitched a trailer to his car near Castleterry, Co Tyrone.

Private Pollock, who was married six months ago, had left the trailer overnight at the side of the road giving the terrorists an opportunity to plot their attack.

Instead of undermining the police force, they have probably reinforced its esprit de corps and have done enormous damage to the Unionists' political campaign.

The Rev Martin Smyth, official Unionist MP for Belfast South, said he thought the onslaught was a counter-productive because the police had not been bowed by attacks that had taken more than 200 lives during the troubles and would not now easily be intimidated.

Early yesterday, seven policemen and their families were attacked by mobs who fired bullets and hurled bricks and petrol bombs at homes in Bangor, Dunganon, Killeel, Belfast and Antrim.

Since March 3 there have been 140 attacks on the police and 18 officers have been forced to flee their homes in a campaign that Sir John Hermon, the RUC's Chief Constable, says has been organized by "sinister elements".

'Violent' prisoner at large

Continued from page 1

small room in a corner of an admissions ward on the third floor of the io-patients wing. He was the only patient on his own in a room. There were eight other patients in the open ward.

According to police he was visited by his wife, a second woman and a man after he was admitted to the hospital. Yesterday, Det Superintendent Robert Andrews, in charge of investigating the escape, refused to comment on the identity of the other two visitors or what happened during the visit.

But he described what he said was an "obviously planned" raid by three or four men dressed in dark burlen suits and ski masks yesterday morning.

It was just after 6am and patients were still asleep. The raiders made their way to the

ward where they attacked one guard outside and two sitting by Mr Knowlden's bed.

The attack was described by police as sudden and vicious. One guard was hit with an iron bar and another kicked in the head. Ammonia was sprayed by the raiders and one guard was saved from serious eye damage by swift medical attention after the attack.

Asked if Mr Knowlden might have been forcibly taken, Mr Andrews said: "I don't think he went against his will."

A second prisoner also escaped yesterday in an unconnected incident. Kierro Pallett, aged 21, slipped away as his mother's coffin was being put in a grave in Plumstead cemetery, south London. He was serving a four-year sentence for grievous bodily harm and burglary.

House Ulster uproar

Continued from page 1 support but the appreciation of the entire Northern Ireland community. Those loyalist members of this House who have consistently come in here to lecture the rest of us on law and order now stand finally exposed as to what they mean by law and order; they mean their law and their order.

"Would the Secretary of State agree with me that some honourable members of this House - if I can use the adjective only because I am supposed to use the adjective hoooorable - are in fact engaged in organizing violence and encouraging the violence against the police in Northern Ireland in an outright campaign against the democratic process in order to create an atmosphere of fear in Northern Ireland so that decent people will not speak up against it?"

He finally asked Mr King to agree that Mr Powell "has presented himself for most of this century in the House as the upholder of the sovereignty of Parliament. But he abandoned that today, objectively, and is so doing abandoned the rule of law."

Mr King said some Unionists had condemned violence, and others had felt unable to do so. Parliament, page 4

Leak about debts a smear, MP says

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich and a member of the party's national executive, claimed yesterday that she had been the victim of a political smear campaign after revelations about her debts.

There was controversy and some sympathy at Westminster yesterday about the leak of Mrs Dunwoody's unpaid House of Commons catering bills, which amount to more than £2,000.

Labour whips have been asked by the Commons catering subcommittee to encourage her to settle the bills quickly. Mr Charles Irving, the chairman, denied that it was planning to take legal action.

"The matter is in the hands of the whips", he said. "It is their responsibility to look after these matters. I have never known a case in which things were not settled in this way."

Mr Irving said that he would be mounting an inquiry to trace the source of the leak. "I am very sorry that this whole thing seems to have attracted a mammoth amount of unnecessary attention. I do not deny there is a debt but we do not discuss confiden-

tial information between the refreshment department and its customers."

The City of London Corporation is due to take Mrs Dunwoody to court next Tuesday to try to repossess her two-bedroom flat in the Barbican because of rent arrears.

However, Crewe and Nantwich council has received a cheque for £1,117 to clear outstanding rates arrears on her home in her constituency, two weeks after a distress warrant was served.

Mrs Dunwoody, who said that she would not be seeing the whips about the unpaid catering bill because it would be settled later this week, said that a "malevolent" anonymous phone caller was behind the revelations.

As an MP she receives a salary of £17,702 a year, plus secretarial expenses. She also has a £4,000 annual retainer from her job as parliamentary adviser to the British Fur Trade Association, a post that angered many of her party colleagues. She was voted off the Shadow Cabinet last year.

An association spokesman said yesterday: "We have a contract with her which expires in two or three years' time. Then we will consider the situation. There is no

reason for us to wish to lose her; she has been very helpful to us."

Mrs Dunwoody denied that her financial difficulties were caused by expenses at her large detached house in Crewe.

"It was a massive investment and it was an added complication", she said.

"I am the ideal MP for Crewe and Nantwich because as a single woman trying to maintain not one but two homes I can understand the problems my constituents have better than most, and I have never in a long life of politics had to make anonymous phone calls about my opponents and their private peccadilloes in business or in personal life."

Mr Ken Jones, a member of Crewe council and former chairman of the constituency Labour party, said that he was surprised at the revelations but her personal finances were a private matter and no concern of the constituency party.

Mr David Hood, a Cheshire county councillor and Mrs Dunwoody's agent for 11 years, said that he would not be surprised if she had been too generous for her own good. "She has got herself into a financial mess which is a personal matter

"She has had considerable expense in setting up her home in Crewe and has had to maintain her London address also. That flat must cost her about £1,000 a month. I know that people have offered to settle her debts, but she is proud and independent and has refused offers of help," he said.

Mrs Dunwoody is the senior partner in a computer company, it was disclosed yesterday. She owns 99 of the 100 shares in Dunwoody Computers.

The other 1 per cent is owned by Mr Hood, an insurance executive.

He said yesterday: "There is no mystery about this company. Its purpose is to develop a political software program to make the lives of MPs and other professional politicians easier."

"It will help MPs to keep a vast variety of things at their fingertips. We are hoping to use modern technology and communications to improve the efficiency of MPs, regional Labour parties and the like. So far it has not got off the ground. Mrs Dunwoody set up the company and I am helping her. The £8,000 capital is the value of the computer equipment we are using to develop the program. No one has had a penny out of it yet."

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LONDON AND NANTWICH

Cheap record pioneers are WH Smith's prize in £43m takeover

By Teresa Poole

The Our Price chain of record shops, which was a driving force behind the spread of cassette music stores in the mid-1970s, yesterday became the latest prize in the round of high street mergers when it agreed to a £43 million bid from WH Smith, the newsagents.

The 130 shops will continue to trade under the Our Price name and WH Smith is planning up to 40 new shops to the east year at a cost of £3 million, with particular emphasis on the Midlands and the North of England.

The takeover will lift WH Smith's share of the retail market for records, cassettes, compact discs and music videos to about 18 per cent.

The founders of Our Price, Mr Gary Nesbitt, the chairman, and Mr Michael Isaacs, the deputy chairman, will continue to manage the company.

For Mr Nesbitt, the bid values his original £900 investment at almost £6 million and vindicates what he now calls his "pile 'em high and sell 'em cheap" philosophy of 10 years ago.

Mr Nesbitt first thought of entering the music business in 1971 after finding it difficult to buy cassettes for his car stereo system.

While continuing to work as a director of Grand Metropolitan's casino operations, he joined in business with Mr Isaacs and set up the first Tape Revolution shop in north London, at a cost of £3,000, selling pre-recorded cassettes.

By 1976, there were five London stores and the company was looking for a way to break into the record market.

Mr Richard Branson's first Virgin record store had opened in 1972 above a shoe shop in Oxford Street offering cheap records and exclusive imports. Mr Nesbitt decided to concentrate on discounting the high sales volume records in the music charts.

"We came up with the concept of Our Price. Retailers were doing it with paint and with electrical goods but the music industry was behind the times. It just went like a snowball.

"Virgin was aimed more at the trendy, cult, student market, people who wouldn't have been seen dead walking down the road with a garish Our Price bag", he said.

"Price competition was fierce, with the high street multiples, WH Smith, Boots

and Woolworth, playing a part in forcing down prices. By 1979, Our Price had 10 shops and Mr Nesbitt decided to leave Grand Metropolitan and work full time at Our Price.

The next year, with £1.25 million finance from Midland Bank, Our Price bought the 41 Harlequin record shops and an era of heady expansion began. A stock market flotation in 1984 valued the company at £14 million and last year the company made profits of almost £2 million.

"The market is less price competitive now. What matters today is certainly value, but also the environment, selection and service," Mr Nesbitt said.

Under WH Smith, Our Price will continue to concentrate on smaller outlets.

Other players in the market, particularly Virgin and HMV, have gone the other way over the past few years and invested in music "megastores" which stock an enormous number of titles in record, cassette and compact disc form.

According to the British Phonographic Industry, which represents the record companies, the days of "lunatic discounts" are over.

Mr Ian Duffell, managing director of HMV, said: "The difference between retailers now is style more than anything. There is a certain loyalty because the image is right for the customer. It's very like fashion really."

There are no plans to merge those businesses with Our Price or to reduce the music selling space within the WH Smith stores.



The Princess of Wales braving the cold as she arrived at Finsingley for a tour of South Yorkshire yesterday

Residents of flats will get right to buy from landlord

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Residents of privately owned mansion blocks of flats are to be given important rights of tenure and ownership under proposals announced by the Government yesterday.

They come after the report last November of the Nugee committee, which recommended reforms to tackle the problems of management in such blocks, housing about 500,000 people, particularly in London and the South-east.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Kenneth Baker, said in the Commons that the Government accepted the main recommendations of the committee, chaired by Mr Edward Nugee, QC, and in two matters went further.

The committee had said that residents should have the collective right of first refusal to buy the block where the landlord wished to dispose of his interest. The Government proposed that the residents of blocks wholly or substantially occupied by long leaseholders should have the right to purchase the landlord's interest at market price if they satisfied a court that the landlord has persistently failed in his duties.

In addition, the Government has added to the committee's recommendations that more should be done to involve residents in the selection of managing agents by giving recognized residents' associations a right to require the landlord to consult them about the appointment of agents and to consult them thereafter.

Mr Baker said that it was clear from the work of the committee, which was set up in 1984, that there were severe problems affecting the management of many blocks of flats.

Mr Baker, who said that legislation would be introduced as soon as possible, accepted the committee's recommendations for the development of the procedure for appointing a receiver and manager if a landlord or his agent neglected the property or failed to carry out the necessary work; a procedure to vary leases if there was an important defect in them; and tighter control over money paid into service charge accounts and reserves.

The Government has stalled on one of the main recommendations: to appoint assessors in the county court to deal quickly and cheaply with disputes on housing matters. That is because it is one of the issues being considered in the review of civil justice set up last year.

Portfolio game to go gold in relaunch

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Times Portfolio competition is to be relaunched next Monday, April 14, as *The Times Portfolio Gold*.

The current blue Portfolio cards will be replaced by Portfolio Gold cards, which will be available to Times readers from their newsagents during this week.

The new daily prize will be doubled to £4,000 and the weekly prize will be £8,000.

Details of the new game and how it will be played will appear in *The Times* this week.

The attraction of the new Portfolio Gold is expected to increase the demand for copies of *The Times*; it will be wise to make sure your copy is ordered at your newsagent.

Readers experiencing any difficulty in obtaining a Portfolio Gold card should send an s. a. e. to: Portfolio Gold, The Times, P O Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Lloyds to repay Playboy fraud funds

The Playboy Club, which allowed a young solicitor to gamble away more than £300,000 of clients' money, does not have to repay the cash, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

But Lloyds Bank, whose manager "wilfully shut his eyes" to the fraud, is liable to repay an estimated £120,000 to a London firm of solicitors, Lipkin Gorman which has made good the losses to their clients.

Mr Justice Allott ruled that Playboy did not know that Norman Cass, aged 37, was using other people's money when he lost up to £400,000 at the roulette wheel in its casino in Park Lane during a seven-month period in 1980.

The Playboy, now owned by Karpnale, a non-trading division of the Pleasureama Group, had denied liability. The judge ordered it to repay £3,735 after the casino cashed a bank draft for Mr Cass.

But Lipkin Gorman were also responsible for estimated £122,000 losses after October 1980 when they found that he had been unlawfully claiming expenses but was still allowed to draw on clients accounts.

Lloyds, which denied liability, won its £5,000 counter-claim against the solicitors who had underwritten an overdraft facility for Mr Cass on his personal account.



Men 'castrated without consent'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Surgeons are castrating men suffering from cancer without their informed consent as part of a medical trial that has little or no scientific value, an ethical watchdog organization has claimed.

The trial, sponsored by the Medical Research Council, should be halted, it says, and the patients who have undergone the operation should be told exactly why the surgery was performed. The Institute of Medical Ethics says in its bulletin published this week.

More than 50 men have been castrated since the trial began last year. The patients are elderly men who have developed cancer of the prostate gland, a condition diagnosed to about 8,000 cases a year. Castration, technically known as orchiectomy, is one common form of treatment, but is not a cure.

The council trial's main objective is to determine whether the operation is best performed immediately after diagnosis or whether it should be deferred until serious symptoms of the spread of the cancer have appeared.

Immediate surgery is not known to improve survival and many specialists are uncertain about which is the best course of action.

But, according to the IME bulletin, the trial is 20 years too late because of advances in treatment of the disease, including monthly drug infusions, which some research has shown to be as effective as the operation.

In an attack on the trial, the bulletin's editor, Dr Richard Nicholson, said it is not required that patients have to be told of the alternatives to castration.

"What appears to be happening is that participating surgeons are deciding that typical, potential subjects - old, a bit dodderly, and probably from Social Class IV or V - are not capable of making up their own minds about participation in the trial, and that the surgeons should do it for them."

"Old men up and down the country are being castrated without their informed consent for the benefit of a trial, sponsored by the Medical Research Council, that is of little, and possibly no, scientific value."

The Medical Research Council issued a statement yesterday, saying that the claims in the IME bulletin were unfounded. The operation was accepted as the safest form of active treatment for a patient with advanced prostatic cancer, it said.

"If the patient objects to the operation he is allowed such alternative therapy as he may choose following further discussion with his surgeon. If orchiectomy is undertaken it is carried out only after the completion of a standard consent form to operation."

It said the protocol for the trial had been screened and accepted by four separate committees of the council, all of which considered both the scientific and ethical basis of the study.

Yacht man 'so lucky to be alive'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A round-the-world yachtsman who was rescued after bailing out his sinking boat for eight days arrived home today saying: "I am just so lucky to be."

Mr James Hatfield, aged 29, who has had eight heart operations and was sailing round the world to raise money for heart research at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, was rescued by a merchant vessel in 35ft waves in the South Pacific.

"I couldn't have carried on for much longer but you don't really know how long you can keep going. When you know it is all there is between you and a long walk home you keep going. It is amazing what you can do when you are pushed," he said when he arrived at Heathrow airport.

When his boat, British Heart, of Ipswich, started to take water, Mr Hatfield was 283 days into his journey, about 2,800 miles from Cape Horn and about 2,000 miles from Auckland.

He said he spent eight days round the clock with no sleep, bailing out the boat with a hand pump. He kept in touch with New Zealand amateur radio and they alerted a container ship to rescue him.

Mr Hatfield, from Ipswich, believes that his journey raised about £80,000 and he said he would have another go if he can find the sponsorship money.

Man jailed for helping Libyan escape justice

A businessman was jailed for five years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday for helping a Libyan fugitive drug dealer to escape the country.

Andrew Gill, aged 49, hired a private aircraft to fly Mr Muhammad Shebli, aged 37, back to Tripoli before he could face trial.

Mr Shebli, believed to be a relative of Coloeel Gaddafi, vanished six days before he was due to appear at Croydon Crown Court in August 1984.

Judge Michael Underhill, QC, told Gill: "You made all the arrangements for the procurement of the aircraft and drew together the threads of the whole plot."

Gill, of Farmfield Road, Great Tey, Colchester, Essex, had pleaded guilty to conspiring to pervert the course of justice.

Gill was described as a "Walter Mitty character" who became involved in Libyan intrigues.

Mr Philip Singer, for the defence, said that Gill had been "chillingly frank" about his activities. He expressed his great "shame and remorse" and the 17 months he had been behind bars awaiting trial had been a "nightmare".

Manx censor bans play

A play set in a Turkish bath involving female customers in nude scenes has been banned in the Isle of Man under a 1916 Act of the Manx Parliament.

The ban on Neil Duno's *Steaming* has started a political dispute in the island, which also has a Postcard Censoring Committee to control postcard humour.

Coleman wins adjournment

A charge against the BBC sports commentator, David Coleman, of driving with too much alcohol was adjourned until April 22 by magistrates at Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, yesterday.

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HALIFAX THE WORLD'S NO.1

Action against drug profits

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government is to seek agreements with other countries to prevent organized crime from feeding off drug trafficking.

The Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, said yesterday that the aim was to build on the powers given by the Drugs Trafficking Offences Bill now before Parliament. The Bill is intended to deprive traffickers of their gains.

Mr Hurd said: "We know that what interests the big traffickers is money, not drugs. We also know that to a growing extent other forms of organized crime feed off the profits of drugs."

"Knowledge that if they are convicted of drug trafficking they will stand to lose their ill gotten gains, combined with the prospect of long prison sentences, will act as a powerful disincentive to getting involved in this appalling trade."

"Confiscation will also remove from the drugs world proceeds that could otherwise be used to finance further, bigger drugs deals."

International co-operation was vital and the Government intended to build on the powers which would be given by the new Bill by negotiating mutual enforcement agreements with other countries.

Mr Hurd, who was addressing a conference in Wakefield on drugs organized by the Association of Chief Police Officers, said there was much to be proud of in the work last year against drug trafficking. He heard success stories each week. But all the indicators showed drugs misuse increasing at an alarming rate.

"This week on the streets of south London you can pick up, with little difficulty, a grain of heroin for £80 - that is an average four days' supply."

"Supplies of all drugs are still plentiful and the sources of supply are still multiplying," he said.

PARLIAMENT APRIL 8 1986

Thatcher condemns attacks on police

Attacks on the police in Northern Ireland were condemned during Commons questions by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister...

King calls on all Unionists to speak out against violence

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, repeatedly called on all political leaders in Northern Ireland...

Exam to go ahead

Minister rejects pleas to delay new examination

Will he give an assurance that despite the problem teachers already planning for this important educational reform...

COMMENTARY



When it was first known that there was to be a by-election in Fulham my initial reaction was that this would be a good opportunity for the Alliance...

Polytechnic cutbacks denied

search in science are inadequate. It is nonsense that we should now in industrial areas of the country be closing science departments in polytechnics...

Opposition fails to delay dockyard Bill

The report stage of the Dockyard Services Bill, which provides for the closure of Devonport and Rosyth, was delayed when Labour and Alliance MPs protested...

Bill on latent damage intact

A proposal to amend the Latent Damage Bill would cause massive uncertainty to the construction industry, a peer warned...

Bank of Scotland Base Rate. Bank of Scotland announces that, with effect from 9th April, 1986 its Base Rate will be decreased from 11.50% per annum to 11.00% per annum.

Sale room Vasari's notes add to drawing's value. The back, however, was easier to identify. It is a chronological chart of the dates that artists died...

Librarian for Bodleian. Mr David G. Vaisey, Keeper of Western Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, has been appointed the new Bodley's Librarian...

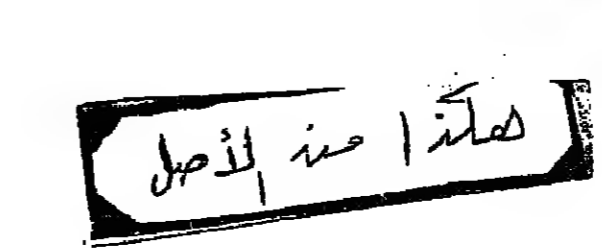
Hungarian held to chess draw. The Hungarian player Csaba Horvath, aged 17, retained his lead in round six of the Caxham School International Junior Tournament...

BANK OF SCOTLAND A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Tory candidate chosen. Mr Neil Balfour, a former Euro-MP, will stand for the Conservatives in the Ryedale by-election in North Yorkshire...

High expectations without the pay. These are the people who are worried about their mortgages and rail fares, who are especially disturbed by conditions in state schools...

Figures being checked. With reference to the order for two naval advance oil replenishment vessels (AORs) being sought by both Swan Hunter and Harland and Wolff...



New-age trains signal BR's plan to revive neglected lines

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

British Rail plans to answer its critics with a new generation of high speed cross-country trains on routes largely abandoned since the war.

The "Super-Sprinter" train will offer inter-city-type services in the late 1980s and 1990s between towns such as Bristol and Salisbury, Liverpool and Scarborough, Cardiff and Brighton, Cambridge and Manchester, Chester and Grantham, Leominster and York.

Routes such as those in recent years have had slow stopping services or none at all. British Rail plans to revive them with a type of train not used before on British Rail routes.

The Super-Sprinter will provide the speed and comfort of inter-city at much lower cost. Mr John Edmonds, head of British Rail's provincial services, said in Shrewsbury yesterday.

"They will enable us to connect towns and cities away from London which are now uneconomic, and bring us back into cross-country travel in a big way."

Representing more than half British Rail's route network, stations and subsidy—now more than £500 million a year—the provincial sector has been looked on as the lame duck of the railways, with closure or bus substitution as the likely fate of many routes.

But, according to Mr Edmonds, there are no present plans for substituting buses for trains and improvements had been made possible by annual savings of £100 million since 1983 as a result of smaller, more advanced trains, automatic level crossings, radio signalling and unmanned stations.

Other major developments in the next 12 months include:

- Eastern Region: New timetables in May in the North-east and 50 new trains replacing 84 old ones.
- Western Region: Continued development of the South Wales valley lines and the introduction of new trains.
- Midland Region: New timetables with faster trains from Wales to the Midlands.
- Scotland: Electrification of the Glasgow-Ayr route in September and its extension to Largs next year.



Five women barristers were sworn in as Queen's Counsel by the Lord Chancellor at the House of Lords yesterday. They are, from left: Miss Anita Mary Ryan, Miss Mary Howarth Arden, Mrs Janet Hilary Smith, Mrs Rosalyn Higgins and Mrs Barbara Jean Lyon Mills.

Hampton Court fire inquiry is set up

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Kenneth Baker, has set up an inquiry after the fire at Hampton Court Palace on Easter Monday.

The inquiry — by Sir John Garrick, a former Civil Servant — is to look at how the department's emergency response arrangements worked and what lessons might be learnt for the future. Mr Baker said in a Commons written reply.

He said that Sir John would pay particular attention to maintenance, fire precautions, and the action taken when the fire was discovered.

Before retiring from the Civil Service in 1981, Sir John was for three years Permanent Secretary at the Department of the Environment.

Beatle gift 'belongs to son'

A Red Indian head-dress given by John Lennon to his son Julian about ten years ago was still rightfully the property of the Lennon family, a court ruled yesterday.

Magistrates at Warrington, Cheshire, decided that the 6ft head-dress should be returned to Julian Lennon, aged 23. Mrs Cynthia Lennon, former wife of John, and Mrs Lynn Buckley, of Fieldfare Close, Oakwood, Warrington, had contested ownership.

In a civil action under the Police Property Act, magistrates were asked to decide on ownership. Mrs Lennon alleged that it had been stolen from her former home in Ruthin, North Wales, in 1978.

The court was told that in 1978 Mrs Buckley was presented with the head-dress by her former husband, Jeremiah McGarry, who said that he had been given it by Mrs Lennon.

Recently Mrs Buckley and her husband Gary, decided to offer it for sale and received an offer of £4,500 from a collector of Beatles memorabilia in America. He wanted proof that it had belonged to the late John Lennon, so Mr Buckley contacted Mrs Lennon.

The next day Mrs Lennon complained that the head-dress had been stolen. The police took possession of the head-dress.

Mrs Lennon told the court that it was only when Mr Buckley phoned to inquire about its authenticity that she realized it was missing.

Mr Ferguson, who moved to London three years ago from Northern Ireland and works at the centre of controversy last year when he was not included among the list of QCs appointed that year.

Colleagues in Northern Ireland were angry at his omission from the list and said it was a snub to the Northern Ireland Bar and judiciary.

Barrister scores legal hat trick

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A barrister yesterday completed a hat trick when he became a Queen's Counsel at the Bar of England and Wales. Mr Richard Ferguson is already SC — senior counsel — at the Bar of the Republic of Ireland and QC at the Northern Ireland Bar and is believed to be the only barrister to take silk at all three bars.

Mr Ferguson, who moved to

Minky set for life of luxury

Minky the cat has been guaranteed a life of luxury after his owner, Mrs Mary Rossi, left him £10,000 in her will.

Mrs Rossi, of The Drive, Golders Green, north-west London, who died last October, also left £2,000 to the RSPCA. Her estate was valued at £222,844 gross, £219,536 net.

Woman jockey inquest

By a Staff Reporter

An inquest into the death of Britain's first woman flat racer, Mrs Sue Horton, opened yesterday after she was found dead in her car.

Her husband, Mr David Horton, aged 48, of Winterbourne Bassett, near Swindon, Wiltshire, gave evidence of identification to Mr John Elgar, the Wiltshire Coroner, at a brief hearing in Devizes.

The inquest was adjourned until April 17.

Mr Horton found his wife, aged 43, in the garage of her bungalow home at Honeystone, Littleton, Drew, Wiltshire, on Saturday when he returned from a day out with their son David. The couple were separated.

Bomb case men start jail fast

Two men accused in connection with the planting of a bomb at Chelsea Barracks, south-west London, last November have started a hunger strike in Wormwood Scrubs prison.

Peter O'Loughlin and Patrick McLaughlin, both aged 26, from Londonderry, stopped eating on Friday. They are protesting at being isolated from other prisoners and say they are locked in their cells for 23 hours a day.

They are awaiting trial at the Central Criminal Court accused of conspiring with others to cause an explosion, likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property.

Directors could get jail for accounts in Welsh

By Tim Jones

Five company directors could face prison sentences because of their refusal to submit accounts in the English language to Companies House in Cardiff.

Notice of dissolution has been posted in the *London Gazette* against Sain (Recordiau) Cys, the Gwynedd-based company which specializes in producing Welsh language pop and ballad records.

But it is likely that individual High Court summonses will be issued against the directors who could then face big fines or terms of imprisonment.

Sain, founded in 1972, has consistently refused to comply with the Companies Act which states that, although companies trading in Wales can submit accounts in Welsh they must be accompanied by an English language translation.

Welsh Nationalist MPs intend to raise the matter in the Commons.

Mr Dafydd Williams, general secretary of Plaid Cymru, said: "It cannot be right for a public organization based in the capital city of Wales to discriminate in this way against a Welsh company."

"This high-handed colonial attitude underlines the need for a new Welsh Language Act."

Mr Dafydd Iwan, chairman of Sain, is also vice-president of Plaid Cymru and his records advocating independence and passive resistance sell thousands of copies.

Mr Owen Huws, one of the directors, said yesterday: "We have no intention of complying with the Act. It seems that we are allowed to use our languages on an everyday basis, but for anything important we are forced to use English."

Companies House said the case was the first of its kind. "We shall explain the law to the directors and hope they comply. We are seeking compliance and not retribution," he said.

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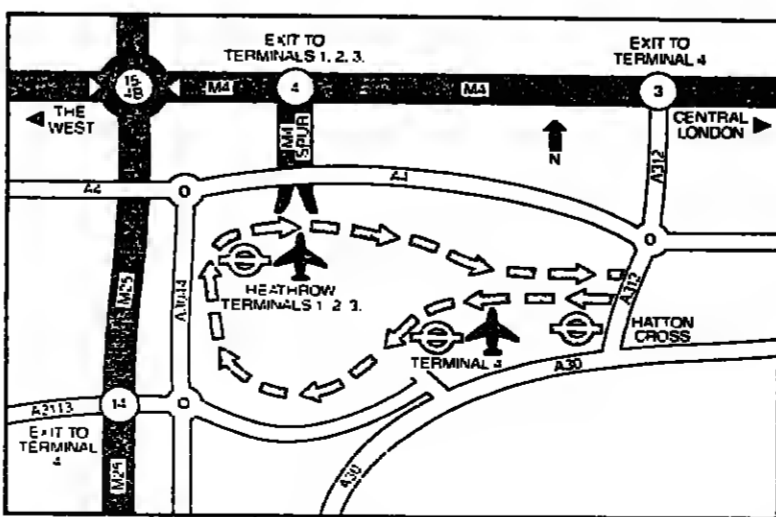
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Injured shoppers buried in rubble of Lebanon supermarket after explosion

Ten die as car bomb signals brutal battle for heartland

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The brutal struggle between pro- and anti-Syrian Christian militias for control of the Maronite heartland of Lebanon erupted again yesterday when a car loaded with 165lb of explosives blew up 50 yards from a Phalangist Party office in the port of Jounieh, killing at least 10 people and wounding another 110.

As usual, most of the dead had played no role in the Lebanese war; many of them were civilian bank workers, whose charred bodies were dragged from their offices in the main square of the flourishing Christian city. Red Cross workers found dozens of wounded shoppers buried in the rubble of a supermarket. There had been no warning of the explosion, although car bombings in east Beirut have become commonplace since Phalangist militia leaders — silently supported by President Amin Gemayel — refused to accept a Syrian peace plan for the country, and evicted the main pro-Syrian Christian commander, Eile Hobeika, from the capital in a series of savage street battles in January.

Hobeika — whose previous exploits are widely believed to include the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in the Sabra and Chatila camps in 1982 — usually languishes in his home village in the mountains above Zahle, but was yesterday holding a series of talks in Damascus with Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, and Nabih Berri, the head of the Shia Muslim Amal movement.

Syria's enthusiastic support for him — and its hatred of the Phalangists — has not wavered since the January fighting. It was therefore not surprising that many Christians yesterday

suspected that Hobeika and the Syrians were behind the bombing in Jounieh.

The inhabitants of Jounieh, which is 13 miles north of Beirut, have generally been spared the slaughter visited upon most other communities in Lebanon in the past ten years. It is also the centre of one of the Phalangist Party's strongest units in Lebanon, controlled by Samir Geagea, the pro-Israeli Christian militia commander, who overthrew Hobeika's rule almost three months ago.

Coincidentally, Druze and Sunni Muslim gunmen in the Chouf Hills south of Beirut yesterday managed to oust the bloodshed at Jounieh in a vicious political dispute with Mr Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party.

Sunnis and Druze in the region both belong to the PSP, but Sunni villagers of Basba had for 15 days been objecting to the political control exercised over them by the Druze of the neighbouring village of Masnat Chouf.

After two Druze were assassinated on Monday night, Druze gunmen yesterday stormed into Basba and murdered 12 people, most of them members of the Sunni Akoum family.

On the edge of the Israeli occupation zone in southern Lebanon, a suicide bomber yesterday drove his car into a checkpoint manned by members of Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army militia in the village of Kawkaba, wounding three of them and three civilians, according to Beirut radio reports.

The driver, whose identity was not known, died in the explosion, the first suicide bombing attack in the south this year.



The crater caused by the car bomb blast in Jounieh which killed at least 10 people.

Waldheim war file revealed

From Frank Johnson Vienna

A courier from the Austrian Mission to the United Nations was yesterday flying here with a file, held by the UN for nearly 40 years, which covers Dr Kurt Waldheim's service in the Balkans during the Second World War.

Herr Rudolf Kirchschläger, whom Dr Waldheim is campaigning to succeed in the presidential election of May 4, has announced that he will rule on whether it implicates Dr Waldheim in war crimes.

The file is part of an immense collection of documents gathered by the Allies. Some of them formed part of the prosecution case for war crimes. But that does not mean every name in them denotes a war criminal.

Chilean doctors in budget cuts strike

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

Chilean doctors began a two-day strike yesterday to demand the resignation of the Health Minister, Dr Winston Chinchon, the repeal of new health legislation and the reinstatement of Dr Ricardo Vaezquez, president of their Santiago union branch, sacked for his role in a December work stoppage.

The doctors are especially upset by conditions in clinics and hospitals where budgets have been severely reduced, in line with the Government's philosophy that education and social services should pay for themselves.

"The question is whether it's less ethical to stop work to demand Chileans' right to health, or to go to hospitals and offices where there are

inadequate resources, and put on a show as if nothing unusual were happening," said Dr Haydee Lopez, the general secretary of the College of Physicians.

"We are more and more aware that we cannot expect solutions to our demands without a democratic change in our country," he said. Meanwhile, the national committee of bishops has published a statement calling for "serious revision" of the 1980 constitution adopted by the military regime.

It is the first time they have directly criticized the regime's plan for a gradual return to a "protected" democracy. They also predicted that this year would be "a time of difficult and painful confrontations".

US tells allies of Libya link with Berlin attack

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The United States has privately instructed embassies in Western Europe to tell its allies that it has hard evidence linking Libya with Saturday's bomb atrocity in a West Berlin discotheque.

It hopes, through quiet diplomatic means, to use the evidence to coax Europe towards co-ordinated action against Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

American officials believe that there are tentative signs that Western Europe is finally responding to efforts to broaden the dispute with Libya beyond its US-Libya dimension.

A senior official, without giving details, said investigators had gathered evidence showing that Libyan agents had operated through the Libyan People's Bureau, or embassy, in East Berlin. It is not clear if the US has linked other foreigners with the blast.

Details will be given privately to the US allies.

The Reagan Administration is upset that news of the evidence, much of which apparently came from intercepted Libyan messages, was revealed in an American television interview given in Bonn by Mr Richard Burt, the US Ambassador to West Germany. It is wary of being seen pressurizing its allies too much in public to act against Libya.

Mr Burt said there was

"very clear evidence" of Libyan involvement, adding that during the week before the explosion the US had told the Soviet Union and East Germany that "we were concerned about the possibility of an attack coming from the Libyan People's Bureau".

The US believes that if West Germany does more against Libya, it might provide the incentive for other Western European governments to follow suit.

● BONN: The US has asked West Germany to impose economic and political sanctions on Libya after claiming Libyan involvement in the discotheque bomb attack, in which two people died (A Correspondent writes).

News agency reports here, quoting West German government sources, said Washington had presented documentary evidence to Bonn alleging Libyan involvement in the blast.

Contadora talks break up with recriminations

From John Carlin, Mexico City

Despite a widespread conviction that the dangers are increasing of a regional war in Central America, peace talks in Panama have broken up amid recriminations and deep divisions between those in the US camp and the one country outside it, Nicaragua.

The foreign ministers of the eight most powerful Latin American nations were unable to persuade their counterparts from conflict-torn Central America to sign a regional peace treaty — a goal sought for more than three years by the Contadora group.

The representatives of the US allies of El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica said the intransigence of left-wing Nicaragua was the only obstacle to an agreement.

Father Miguel D'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, said it would be wrong to conclude that Contadora had failed. But he insisted his country could not commit itself to any peace treaty while

Washington continued to arm Contra rebels.

"We will not sign anything, we won't hand in one rifle, we will not disarm while the US abundance and shameless assistance to the counter-revolutionaries persists," Father D'Escoto said.

It had been hoped a joint statement would be issued at the end of the meeting by all 13 nations, but the Central Americans could not agree on a common draft. This left the Contadora group of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, and its so-called support group of Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay, to pen yet another expression of alarm at the threats besetting Central America and to warn against an increase in foreign support for rebel forces in the region.

A June 6 deadline was set by the two pressure groups for the signing of a treaty. However, such a deadline has been set before, been forgotten and talks have been resumed.

Honduras denies plea for Washington arms

Tegucigalpa (UPI) — President José Azcooa Hoyo of Honduras said his government did not ask Washington for \$20 million (about £13.5 million) in military aid to fend off an alleged Nicaraguan Army invasion on the border.

President Reagan, citing the seriousness of aggression from a "communist dictatorship," sent \$20 million in emergency military aid to Señor Azcooa saying the money was requested to repel the attack.

"The Government of President José Azcooa Hoyo did not request military aid from the US Government as has been much speculated in the national and international press," a presidential palace statement said. "It is completely false."

It said the only request made to Washington was "for the use of air transport to rapidly move Honduran troops to the sectors where the Sandinista Popular Army crossed over."

The announcement of an "invasion" of Honduras by troops from leftist-ruled Nicaragua came from Washington on March 24. The incursion of some 1,500 Nicaraguan troops across the poorly marked border

in pursuit of US-backed Contra rebels came on the eve of a Senate vote on President Reagan's \$100 million aid package for the rebels.

A day later, the Government of Honduras, a staunch US ally, which at first vigorously denied the reports, said the Sandinista had "crossed into" western Olancho province. Shortly thereafter, Señor Azcooa left for a Caribbean beach holiday.

There was much conjecture among foreign diplomats that Washington exaggerated the Nicaraguan border raid to try to sway the Senate to vote in favor of Reagan's Contra aid proposal.

Also in the presidential statement, Señor Azcooa denounced statements by President Daniel Ortega, of Nicaragua, who said Sandinista troops did not violate the border but rather entered a "no-man's land" where Contra rebels have bases.

"On the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, there does not exist nor can there exist a so-called 'no-man's land' because the border was clearly marked for perpetuity by the Spanish King on December 23, 1906," the statement said.

Phosphor burns treated in Kabul

Islamabad (Reuters) — Kabul hospitals are treating many cases of phosphorus burns, suggesting Soviet and Afghan forces are using the searing chemical as a weapon in Afghanistan, Western diplomats said.

Reports from the Afghan capital show that one man has died of burns, possibly from a phosphorus bomb. Such burns had not been previously reported from Afghanistan.

Economist defects

Bonn (Reuters) — A leading East German economist has defected to West Germany after an official trip to Austria, Bonn government sources said.

They named him as Mr Harry Maier, aged 52, from the East German Academy of Sciences in East Berlin.

Curbs eased

Bonn (Reuters) — East Germany is easing restrictions on West-bound travellers in a move that could be tied to plans by the Communist leader, Mr Erich Honecker, to pay a long-awaited visit to West Germany later this year.

Crossing crash

Berlin (AP) — A freight train rammed into a commuter bus on an East German railway crossing in thick fog near Lauchhammer, killing eight bus passengers.

Queen's job

Copenhagen (Reuters) — Queen Margrethe of Denmark has started work as a costume designer for a television version of a Hans Christian Andersen story.

Pink protest

Barcelona (Reuters) — Catalan radicals sprayed pink paint on the US Navy frigate Capodanno here.

Pacific peril

Manila (Reuters) — A French-owned luxury yacht was hijacked by pirates off the southern Philippines and its crew of four set adrift in a rubber raft. They were later picked up.

Super speedy

Washington (Reuters) — US firms have won contracts worth \$89.5 million (£60 million) for research into an aircraft that would fly in space and take two hours from New York to Tokyo.

Muldoon up

Wellington (Reuters) — The former New Zealand Prime Minister, Sir Robert Muldoon, has been rehabilitated by his National Party, now in opposition, with promotion to foreign affairs spokesman.

Olga's return

Moscow (Reuters) — Svetlana Alliluyeva, Stalin's daughter who defected to the West and then came back to the Soviet Union, has confirmed that her daughter Olga would be returning to school in England soon.

Cabinet crisis deferred by Israeli parties

Jerusalem — Israel's Cabinet crisis went on to the backburner yesterday as the tension shifted to the opening of the Labour Party convention here last night (David Bernstein writes).

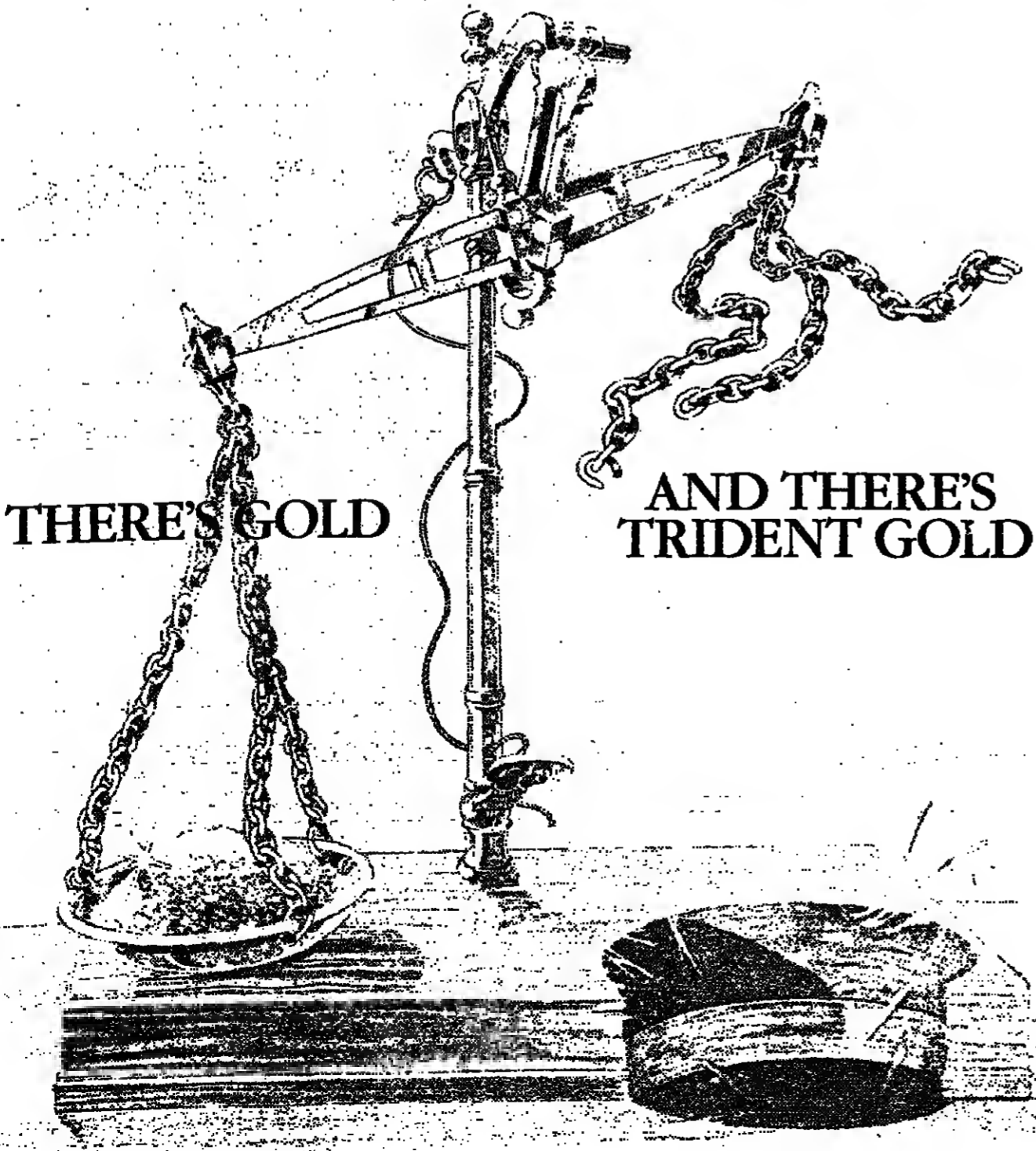
Nevertheless, the crisis was expected to dominate the convention which, even before the crisis erupted, had been expected to devote considerable time to mounting demands for a reappraisal of the party's rotation agreement with Likud.

Both Labour and the Likud have agreed to take the edge off the crisis by deferring the showdown between the Labour Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, and his Likud Finance Minister, Mr Yitzhak Modai, until Sunday's weekly Cabinet meeting.

Howe warned of N Korean military threat

The Foreign Minister of South Korea, Mr Lee Won-Kyung, is thought to have warned Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, of his country's fears over a military threat posed by North Korea (Our Diplomatic Staff writes).

Mr Lee is accompanying President Chun Doo Hwan on the first visit by a South Korean head of state to Europe. Yesterday the President had lunch with the Queen at Windsor and last night was having dinner at 10 Downing Street. At yesterday's meeting between Sir Geoffrey and Mr Lee there is thought to have been a general discussion about the situation in Korea. South Korea is concerned at the build-up of North Korean forces close to the border.



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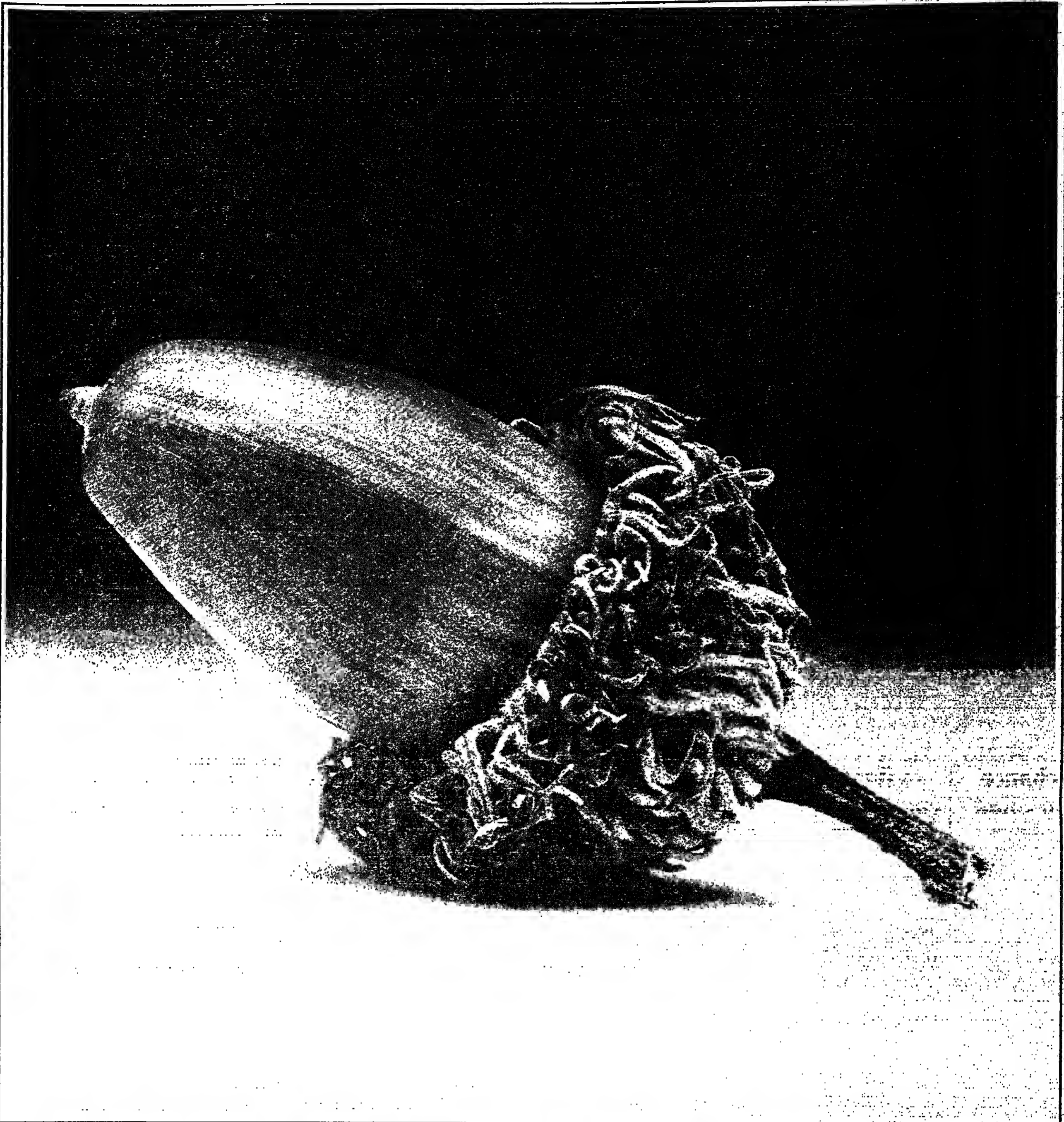
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Puzzle of link to Civil War incident

Spanish right suspected of hatching plot for anniversary

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's principal intelligence agency, run by the armed forces, is investigating alleged efforts by extreme right-wingers to incite plotting against the Socialist Government in connection with the fiftieth anniversary in July of the outbreak of the Civil War. Defence Ministry sources yesterday confirmed a report on the investigation in Cambio 16, the Madrid newspaper, though they denied the incidents had reached coup plot proportions. "All that has been revealed is how easy it is to print clandestine propaganda sheets and then send them to some of the military," a Ministry spokesman said. According to Cambio 16, agents of the Centre for Defence Intelligence have been investigating two former officers serving prison sentences, who took part in extreme right-wing coup attempts in 1981 and 1982, as possible authors of the sheets. These claimed that the Socialists are engaged in a campaign coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary "to eliminate the last remains of the

Franco legacy and return Spain to the spirit of April 1931". This was when Spain became a republic after the abdication of King Alfonso XIII, the present King's grandfather. The sheets also claimed that the Government is secretly negotiating the independence of Spain's Basque region with ETA, the Basque separatist organization.

The magazine said five different messages had been detected, beginning last Christmas. They were sent to generals, admirals and other service chiefs, especially in the Madrid, Seville, Valencia and Valladolid military regions. They were all signed with the pseudonym "The Director", recalling the procedure General Mola, one of the conspirators with General Franco, used in his "secret instructions" to the rebels before the 1936 uprising against the republic.

Others suspected, the weekly added, included a senior officer with the Brunete armoured division outside the capital, as well as several right-wing civilians.

Union deal saves fiesta bullfights

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Fiesta Nacional can go ahead this season thanks to a decision by the bullfighters' union to suspend its threatened strike over pensions.

Its grievances, however, have not been resolved. Anxieties about their earnings for the coming season, the bullfighters and their teams accepted a promise from government negotiators to solve pension problems.

It is the teams of Picadors and Banderilleros, who are recruited by the bullfighters and do not earn big money, who are most worried.

The government, faced with a deficit of more than £540 million in the country's social security system, wants to incorporate the bullfighters' special pension scheme into the national insurance plan.

It and the bullfighters' union have now given themselves until the end of the year to compromise.

Under the previous scheme dating from the Franco era, bullfighters only had to contribute for 10 years in order to qualify for a pension. The government now wants a 35-year contribution.



Members of the international anti-nuclear organization Greenpeace, flying their flag on the Nevada desert test site in the United States at the weekend. Six members of the group, which wanted to prevent a test yesterday, were arrested on the range on Monday.

Pretoria reins in whites who fan flames of race war

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's ruling National Party (NP) has served warning that white right-wing extremists who take "the law into their own hands" are playing into the hands of revolutionaries by fanning the flames of a full-scale racial conflict which whites would not survive.

The warning, the most open official expression of concern to date about the activities of right-wing groups, is contained in a front-page article in the latest issue of Nationalist, the NP's official newspaper.

The article referred to a number of recent incidents in which whites have cruised the streets in cars taking pot shots at black pedestrians, or made unprovoked assaults on blacks. It also criticized the activities of extreme right-wing political parties and organizations.

Such behaviour, the paper said, served the aim of left-wing revolutionaries who "want white fears to turn to rage so that peaceful co-existence and co-operation between South Africa's population groups becomes impossible".

Emotions had to be calmed, and people had to understand

what the Government was doing, the paper went on. This was why a federal congress of the NP was to be held in Durban on August 12 and 13. Meanwhile, the chairman of the Broederbond, Professor J P de Lange, yesterday denied reports that the semi-secret society of the Afrikaner elite was seeking talks with the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).

"A third party did ask us whether we would be interested, and we said we were not interested", Professor de Lange told The Times. "We regard the ANC as a terrorist organization, and it is not true that we have put out any feelers".

An official in the ANC's information department in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, said that the ANC had also been approached by an unnamed third party, and asked what its reaction would be if the Broederbond requested talks.

"Our answer was that we do not deal with intermediaries, but that if the Broederbond approached us directly with such a request, the National Executive would consider it", Mr Tom Sebina, the assistant information officer, said.

Nato secrets charge

Athens - A young Greek naval lieutenant who is being court-martialled in Piraeus on charges of espionage, was alleged by prosecution witnesses yesterday to have given Nato weapons systems secrets to the Soviet Union (Mario Modiano writes). Lieutenant Vassili Serepisios, aged 35, was arrested last summer on information supplied by Mr Sergei Bokhan, a Soviet diplomat in Athens who defected to the United States in May last year. He was later identified as the deputy director of the Soviet

military intelligence (GRU) in Greece.

General George Politis, chief of the Greek central intelligence service (KYP), who interrogated Mr Bokhan in Washington, said that Mr Serepisios had been passing intelligence to the Russians for eight years.

Lieutenant Colonel Dimitris Karatzanis of KYP, another witness, told the court that the defendant had given his Soviet contacts Nato's secret manuals for the Harpoon missile as well as the anti-aircraft Sea Sparrow system.

UN seizes chance in Chad

By a Staff Reporter

Eighteen years of civil war and 14 years of continuous drought have left Chad, the poorest country in the world, ravaged. But last year that cycle was broken with rains and this year the country has not requested emergency aid. Unicef has seized the window of opportunity and is to push ahead with a \$100 million (\$600,000) development programme which it hopes will take Chad and 15 other countries in Africa out of their downward spiral.

The programme for Chad will cost an estimated \$30 million. It includes a vaccination programme for children under four years. Already a 10-day vaccination campaign in Ndjamena has been heralded a great success by the Unicef representative in Chad, Mr Ulf Kristoffersson. He said in London yesterday that around 70 per cent of Ndjamena's children had been covered, which would save about 1,500 from death or crippling disease.

Museveni to fight corruption

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

President Museveni, of Uganda, is launching a major operation against widespread corruption in government and semi-government services which has existed for many years as a result of the economic breakdown which began when General Idi Amin took power in 1971. It was announced in Kampala that a commission of inquiry would soon be set up to look into the activities of ministers and heads of state-owned bodies.

In response to what the government said was a public outcry, the commission will investigate financial scandals and abuse of office. Members of the public will be invited to give evidence.

General Museveni has been bitterly critical of the way corruption, which reached alarming levels under General Amin in the 1970s, had been allowed to continue under the rule of General Milton Obote, who was ousted last July by a section of his own Army.

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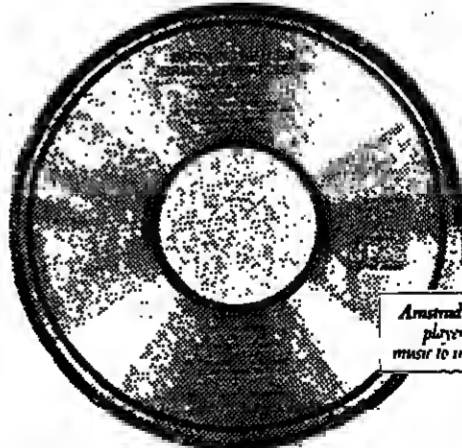
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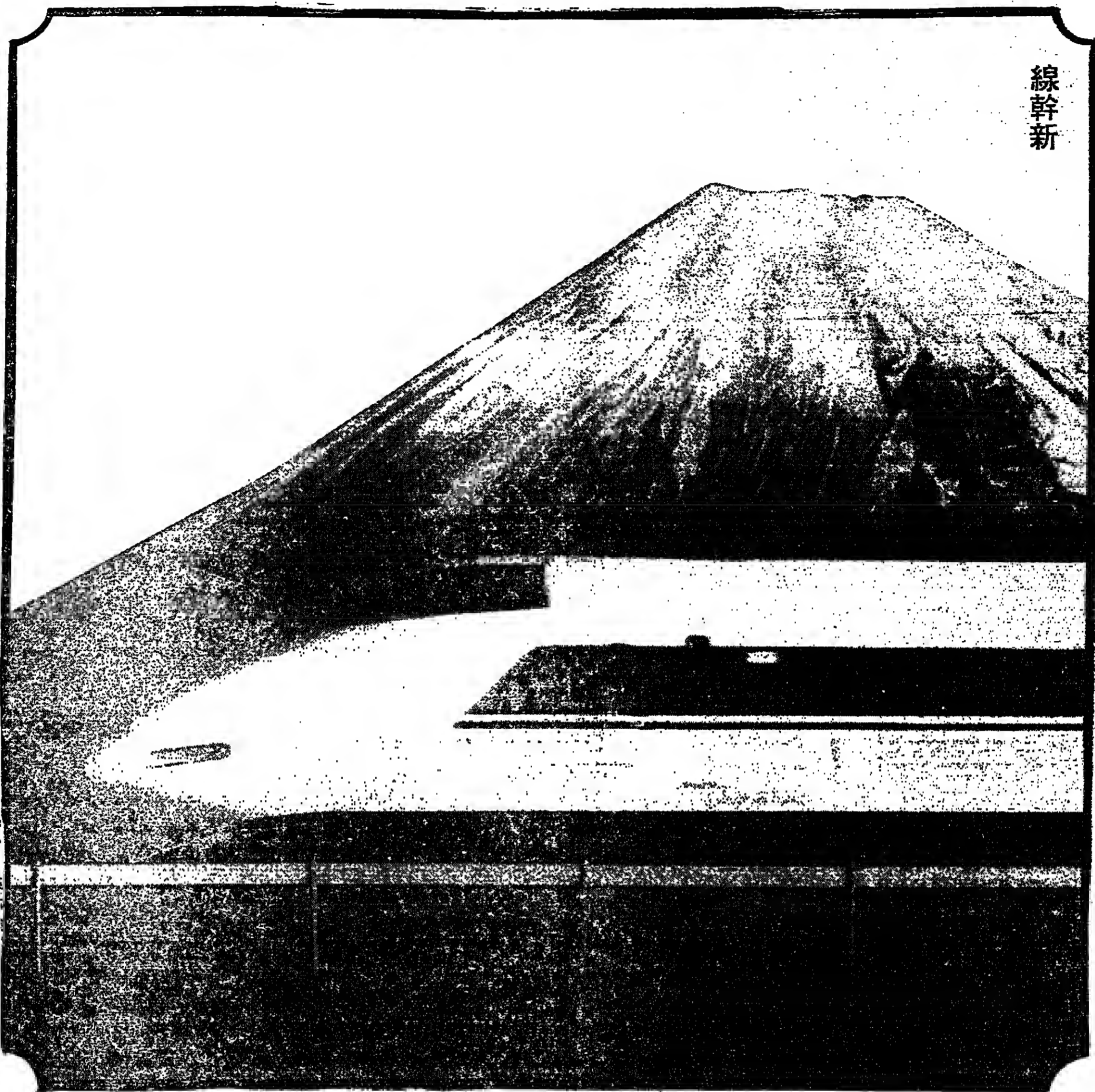


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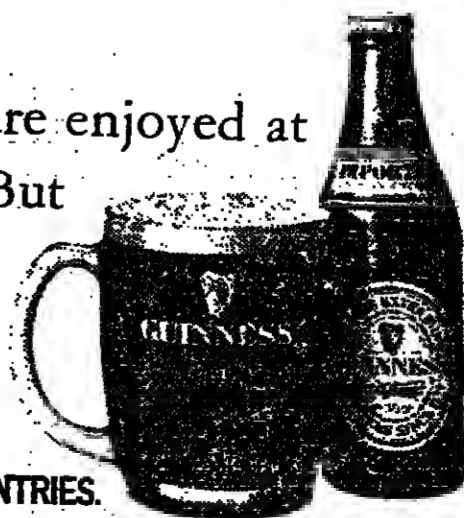
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Poles trip

Nakasone seeks better Japanese life-style and more spending power

The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, has announced measures aimed at putting more spending money in the pockets of his hard-working citizens and perk up their life-style.

His programme is designed to try to buy the country's way out of its trade problems with the West by spending more at home on the good things of life, such as better housing and cheaper imported beef. He hopes to divert some of the country's energies from the export drive.

"I hope that each one of my fellow Japanese people will pause and reflect upon your own life-style and will give some thought to achieving an enhanced pattern of consumption," he said.

"In the background of these large (trade) surpluses lies economic structural factors seen in the Japanese economy such as being export-oriented. Therefore, we should make a switchover in our traditional way of thinking and tackle structural adjustment of the Japanese economy, thereby transforming it into an internationally harmonious one.

"It is impossible for Japan alone to continue to be an island of solitary prosperity,

From David Watts, Tokyo

with a large current account imbalance, depending on exports. It is no exaggeration to say that our success in achieving the transformation will be essential in determining Japan's future.

"I intend to endeavour to improve the quality of the nation's living standard." In a message to the rest of the world, he said: "Japan is now at an historic turning point in its relations with the international economic community. Our continued large current account imbalance is a matter of serious concern not only for the management of our own economy but also for the harmonious development of the world economy.

But, like so many similar pronouncements in the past - including a report issued on Monday from a committee chaired by Mr Haruo Maekawa, the former head of the Bank of Japan - the new announcement is long on generalizations and short on specifics. Nor is it easy to see how some of the proposals would actually lead to real change, especially as these "comprehensive economic measures" are for the short

term rather than the medium to long term of the Maekawa Report.

In one case at least the latest economic package actually contradicts suggestions made by Mr Maekawa's experts. They proposed that Japan's uneconomic coal industry be allowed to die. Yesterday's statement approves the continuation of government payments to mining industries in difficulty.

The new measures were approved by a meeting of the Ministerial Conference for Economic Measures yesterday, which was also given the Maekawa Report. The meeting did not accept the report, but there will be some unspecified follow-up measures.

The key points centre on passing on to the public some of the benefits of the greater purchasing power of the yen through cheaper oil and gas; bringing forward public works projects by signing contracts in the first half of the year; promoting housing construction by making housing loans cheaper and opening up more areas for development. Support prices for beef, pork and butter are to be reduced.

Kenneth Fleet, page 21

Bangkok bomb hits US-Thai meeting

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

A bomb exploded last night in the car park of the Erawan Hotel 80 minutes before Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, was due to dine there with the Thai Prime Minister, General Prem.

Three bystanders were injured but there was little damage. The dinner was moved to another hotel.

General Narong Mahanond, the Thai police chief, said he did not know who was responsible and that nobody had claimed responsibility.

He said measures for the Prime Minister's security had been stepped up immediately after the bomb went off. Rumours of a move against the government swept through Bangkok quickly but they appear to have little substance.

Observers believe the explosion may have been a protest against some American policies towards Thailand.

Before Mr Weinberger arrived in Bangkok on Monday night unidentified political activists had threatened to stage demonstrations during his visit against new American trading laws which threaten Thailand's traditional rice exports.

English lesson on the train



Stephanie Rogez, an English teacher, and her businessmen pupils meet on a Lille-Paris express for a language lesson under a scheme organized by the French railways.

MEPs do battle over home of EEC

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The row over whether the European Parliament should move from Strasbourg to Brussels was stepped up yesterday when a multi-party group of Euro-MPs moved to open action in the European Council of Ministers by the French Government, which wants the Parliament to stay in France.

Many MEPs want the assembly moved to Brussels where the Commission and Council of Ministers meet, but at the centre of power and concentrate EEC institutions in the "capital of Europe".

The Parliament, which is largely consultative body has control over part of the EEC budget, at present holds its debates in Strasbourg at committee meetings in Brussels, with the secretariat base in Luxembourg. MEPs, the staff and tens of documents have to be moved between the three points.

The Parliament voted by slim majority in October authorize building a new parliamentary chamber in Brussels.

Mr Peter Price, Conservative MEP for London South East, and four other MEPs argue that it is "imperative for the Parliament to assert full its powers".

Cardinal to meet Jaruzelski before the Pope's visit

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Primate of Poland, is planning a summit meeting with General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, in the next few weeks to discuss tender Church-state relations before the Pope makes a pilgrimage to his homeland.

At a rare press conference on Monday evening, ostensibly called to introduce the cardinal's impending trip to France, the primate found himself replying to a detailed official attack on the political sins of the Polish priesthood.

In an article recently written under his customary pseudonym, Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, surveyed and attacked several dozen sermons delivered from Polish pulpits. Among other things, he said, the sermons equated communists with Nazis and accused the police of murder.

The article was the first major attack on radical priests for several months and is being regarded as a flexing of the muscles before the detailed negotiations begin on the Pope's trip, due next year.

The cardinal stressed: "It was not a good article even from the point of view of the Polish authorities, as this story mentions the names and addresses of priests who so far have been unknown". He said phrases had been taken out of context.

The church, he said, was also under fire at various closed communist meetings but "of course we have no way of recording such statements" - a jibe at secret police monitoring of church services - "but we know they exist and don't intend to use them to prove there is hostility against the church".

Mr Urban's article showed that the authorities had been

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Poles call off UK trip over snub

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw

Warsaw yesterday accused Britain of discriminating against the Polish Government by ruling out a meeting between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Polish Foreign Minister, Mr Marian Orzechowski.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, confirmed that an April trip to London had been planned by Mr Orzechowski but that it had been postponed because Warsaw felt he would not get the appropriate reception.

Without actually mentioning the name of Mrs Thatcher, the spokesman made it clear that the Poles felt they had been snubbed. Poland, Mr Urban said, wanted a "partner-like dialogue" with Britain. But during preparatory talks the British side had tried to "discriminate against Poland and denigrate the importance of the visit".

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, visited Warsaw last April and met General Jaruzelski, then Prime Minister, and so the Poles made clear yesterday they expected an equivalent gesture.

"We are very much for the development of relations with Great Britain," Mr Urban told foreign reporters, "but on the basis of mutual reciprocity".

Poland has been steadily easing itself out of the diplomatic isolation imposed by

the West after the declaration of martial law in 1981.

But the Polish Government openly expressed its irritation when the then Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, visited the grave of the murdered Solidarity chaplain, Father Jerzy Popieluszko. Sir Geoffrey, like Mr Rifkind, also met Solidarity advisers.

The Warsaw Government, feeling that the tide was now flowing its way again, attached great importance to high-level meetings in London.

By contrast, Mr Orzechowski is receiving top-flight treatment in Bonn. He has met President Richard von Weizsäcker and Chancellor Helmut Kohl, as well as his counterpart, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

The discussion appears to be mainly about East-West relations with emphasis on achieving a new level of political and economic contacts.

Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, is expected to visit Bonn soon after the East German Communist Party congress, which begins on April 17. There is speculation in Soviet bloc capitals that Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, may attend the East Berlin congress, giving support to Herr Honecker's Bonn trip.

"Mr. Brown, it's a boy, boy, girl, girl, girl..."

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10.00-12.25	LH 033	Frankfurt
10.00-12.40	LH 069	Munich
10.25-12.50	LH 039	Hanover
10.35-12.55	LH 041	Hamburg
10.50-13.15	LH 049	Hanover
11.25-13.45	LH 047	Bremen
12.50-15.30	LH 1361f	Munster
14.00-16.25	LH 035	Frankfurt
14.40-16.50	LH 057	Cologne/Bonn
14.55-17.20	LH 043	Hamburg
15.00-17.10	LH 053	Dusseldorf
18.00-20.25	LH 037	Frankfurt
18.15-20.45	LH 067	Stuttgart
18.25-21.05	LH 071	Munich
19.05-21.15	LH 059	Cologne/Bonn
19.05-22.35	LH 059	Nuremberg
20.05-22.25	LH 045	Hamburg
20.15-22.25	LH 055	Dusseldorf

* Hanover Fair only. † London, Gatwick.
Times valid until 27 September 1986.

From Germany To London

06.55-08.45	LH 056	Nuremberg
07.20-07.55	LH 062	Stuttgart
08.25-08.45	LH 056	Cologne/Bonn
08.35-09.05	LH 030	Frankfurt
08.50-09.20	LH 040	Hamburg
09.05-09.35*	LH 038	Hanover
09.30-09.45	LH 050	Dusseldorf
09.40-10.10	LH 046	Bremen
09.45-10.45	LH 068	Munich
11.40-12.20	LH 1360f	Munster
12.35-13.05	LH 032	Frankfurt
13.35-14.05	LH 042	Hamburg
13.45-14.00	LH 052	Dusseldorf
13.45-14.15	LH 048	Hanover
16.35-17.05	LH 034	Frankfurt
17.00-17.25	LH 066	Stuttgart
17.25-17.45	LH 058	Cologne/Bonn
18.00-18.15	LH 054	Dusseldorf
18.15-19.15	LH 070	Munich
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20.35-21.05	LH 036	Frankfurt

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Scandinavia's labour crisis

120,000 out of work as Norway is plunged into industrial chaos

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

Norway was plunged into industrial chaos yesterday as a series of nationwide lock-outs put about 120,000 people - more than 10 per cent of the employed population - out of work.

Several newspapers were unable to publish, including the leading quality daily Aftenposten, which is forced to postpone its launch of a 32-page tabloid supplement on Saturday.

Negotiations have foundered over a complicated package deal involving relatively higher wage rises for low-paid workers, a shorter working week and a government limit of 5 per cent for overall pay increases.

President Koivisto of Finland returned to his official residence yesterday after a civil service strike had forced him to stay at a government guest house run by a private hotel (Olli Kivinen writes from Helsinki). The President's palace was excluded from the strike after the state employees' union lost sympathy when President Koivisto drove himself to the guest house because his chauffeur was striking.

The five industries affected are iron and metal, building and construction, hotel and restaurant trades, textiles, and electro-chemicals. The locked-out unions in those industries join 15,000 oil and gas workers whose lock-out at the weekend stopped all production in the North Sea.

Mr Kaare Willoch, the Prime Minister, says there is unlikely to be any government intervention in the dispute. On television on Monday night he described the dispute as a tragedy, coming at a time when Norway needed as much revenue as it could earn.

The Finance Minister, Mr Rolf Presthus, has predicted a slump in the economy, a warning he combined with the announcement that Norway is to enter international credit markets this year, its first foreign borrowing since 1980.

STOCKHOLM: With massive industrial action postponed at the last minute yesterday, the so-called Swedish model of highly centralized wage bargaining, coupled with a state-run arbitration system, breathes what many observers see as its last gasp (Christopher Mosey writes).

The employers and the unions' organization agreed to the 48-hour postponement only 90 minutes before 18,000 key white-collar workers in private industry were due to strike.

Benazir upsets her best friends

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

When Miss Benazir Bhutto, the acting president of the Pakistan People's Party, returns here from exile in London this week, she will find the party founded by her father, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the hanged Prime Minister, in deep disarray.

The party which was her father's vehicle to power and the creation of him and his friends - who included some of the chief feudal landlords of his home province of Sindh - is on the point of splitting in three.

Only skilled diplomatic manoeuvring on her part will be able to prevent the split, and many are asking whether she has sufficient experience and tact to achieve it.

The problem arises mainly from the autocratic way in which she has tried to run the party while in exile and the idiosyncratic appointments she has made to key posts.

In particular, she is resented for having bypassed established party figures who were her father's colleagues. Her appointments for instance of Mr Jehangir Badr as the Punjab secretary, and of Mr Shafi Muhammad as secretary while in exile and the idiosyncratic appointments she has made to key posts.

They are regarded by party stalwarts as having no experience and no credentials to occupy such key posts. The fact they were nominated instead of elected is also resented.

The most senior of the party chieftains affected by her attitude has been Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, president of the Sind party, former chief minister of the state and a former federal minister.

While Miss Bhutto was under house arrest or in exile, Mr Jatoi, one of the state's largest landowners, spent much time in prison as leader of the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy. He came to London recently to take part in a meeting of the central committee of the party and also to make his protests known to Miss Bhutto.

"I am not happy," he told me in his house in a smart Karachi suburb. "I have given 25 years of my youth to this party and to the family. I have given my sweat and my blood and I have given my finances and my youth to this party. I have declined the highest offices in the country."



Before leaving London, Miss Benazir Bhutto tells newsmen she hopes to bring down the Pakistan Government.

party and to the family. I have given my sweat and my blood and I have given my finances and my youth to this party. I have declined the highest offices in the country.

"I feel the party belongs to me and I belong to the party, and I will make every effort to stay within the party. But I reserve my right to have my principles."

"I will fight for fundamental principles, for consultation on major issues, like foreign policy, like strategy within the country, like appointments," he said.

Mr Jatoi and his followers, who are by no means inconspicuous, are particularly angry over the appointments, which they feel have passed over people of real merit.

"There should be elections at all levels," he insists, "but if you have to have nominations, at least you should nominate those who have sacrificed, those who have had lashes, those who have suffered in jails for a number of years. We can't bypass them."

But Miss Bhutto paid him no heed. "I was not listened to," he said. Though perhaps Mr Jatoi inwardly regrets that he did not accept the Prime Minister's job when it was offered to him last year by President Zia, he still maintains he is loyal to the leadership of Miss Bhutto and will accept that she is the prime ministerial candidate for the party.

But if he breaks away he could weaken the party considerably. He would leave triumphantly that wing of the party led by Makhdoom Khaliq-ud-Din, the younger son of the Sind religious leader and hereditary saint, the Pir of Hala.

The party is already weakened by the departure of two other former ministerial colleagues of the late Mr Bhutto, Mr Mumtaz Ali Bhutto, his cousin, and Mr Hafiz Bhutto, the creator of the Bhutto Constitution of 1973.

They were expelled recently when in frustration they set up a movement for the establishment of a Pakistan confederation, the Sind, Baloch, Pushtun Front.

Greek steel chief assassinated in Athens street

From Marin Modiano, Athens

A leading Greek industrialist was yesterday shot and killed in a busy central Athens street in the tenth political assassination since 1975 to be claimed by the mysterious terrorist organization "17 November".

Mr Dimitris Angelopoulos, aged 79, the founder and chairman of Halyvourgiki, the main steel works in south Greece, was murdered as he walked from his Kolonaki flat to his city office.

Witnesses said he was shot five times in the abdomen and chest by a young man wearing a raincoat and waiting on the pavement. They said the man pulled a pistol from a travel bag, fired it at the industrialist, then ran across the street to a waiting motorcycle driven by an accomplice. The two escaped in the dense morning traffic.

Mr Angelopoulos, who died shortly afterwards in hospital, was known to have walked the same route every day. Business associates said he, like several other Greek industrialists, had received death threats but chose to ignore them.

Mr Thanasis Tsouras, the Greek Minister of State for Public Order, said a 13-page proclamation claiming responsibility for the killing from the "17 November revolutionary organization" was found near the murder scene.

Since the group inaugurated its terrorist activities in December 1975 by murdering Mr Richard Welch, the American Central Intelligence Agency station chief in Athens, security authorities have not been able to find a clue that would lead to the arrest of a single member of "17 November".

The organization's victims have included two American officials, four Greek police officers and one Greek newspaper publisher, as well as some of their drivers. Almost all the killings were carried out with the same .45 calibre pistol.

Last November the organization claimed responsibility for bombing a police bus, killing one policeman.

To such a group of extreme left-wingers, Mr Angelopoulos, known here as the grandfather of the Greek steel industry, would represent the typical Greek capitalist even though his family's beginnings were modest and involved a small concern selling nails and wire.

Mr Angelopoulos went into steel proper in the early 1930s and after the war he was able to set up Halyvourgiki with the help of the Marshall Plan.

Today the steel mill has a workforce of 1,400 and ranks twelfth in the country.

The industrialist had diversified 10 years ago by buying the Alpha steel works in Newport, South Wales, as well as a mill in Switzerland where he also acquired some banking interests.

Aquino accepts first foreign bank loan

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Six weeks after taking power, President Corazon Aquino yesterday accepted the first foreign loan for her Government, reminding Filipinos that "while they are now politically free they remain shocked by the economic legacy" of former President Marcos.

The "reckless borrowing and profligate spending" of the Marcos regime had plunged the Philippines into its worst economic crisis since the Second World War, Mrs Aquino said at a foundation-laying ceremony at the headquarters of the 32-nation Asian Development Bank.

She thanked the bank for lending her Government \$100 million (£67.5 million).

Military officials, meanwhile, reported that rickshaws yesterday murdered the former governor of Tarlac, President Aquino's home province, who was dismissed last week.

Mr Said Federico Peralpa, aged 58, a member of Mr Marcos's political party, was asleep in his house in San Manuel Town when he was stabbed. His wife, Victoria, was wounded in the scuffle.

Bangladesh opposition split

From Ahmed Fazl, Dhaka

Divisions in opposition parties campaigning for democracy in Bangladesh became final as the ruling military Government yesterday ended scrutiny of more than 2,100 nomination papers filed for parliamentary polls on May 7.

A last hope for a united movement was dashed as Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of a seven-party alliance which has boycotted the polls, attacked opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wazed for taking part in the elections under martial law.

Sheikh Wazed, whose 15-party alliance earlier led a joint civil agitation with Begum Zia, is running in four constituencies.

"They have urged me to go out to share power with the military rulers," Begum Zia told at least 50,000 supporters at a noisy rally in the south-eastern port city of Chittagong on Monday marred by clashes in which 50 people were hurt.

She repeated her demands for withdrawal before the elections of martial law, the release of political prisoners and press freedom. Her accusations evoked an angry response from Sheikh Wazed and her Awami League, which has candidates in all 300 constituencies.

"Those who are boycotting the polls are for anarchy," Sheikh Wazed, who has also come under fire from dissident groups in the 15-party alliance, said at a meeting on Monday.

Sinners search: Thirty-five Iranian students in Bangladesh have refused to return to Iran and have asked the Dhaka office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to arrange asylum for them in Australia and Canada.

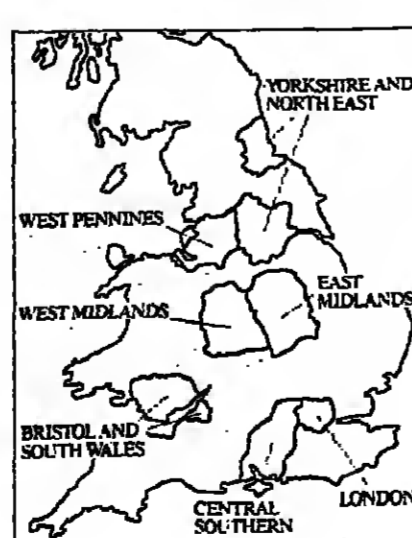
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Finney bubbles back

Albert Finney's considerable energy has been harnessed by an American play that brings him back to the West End tonight

Albert Finney is loping around the bar of the Apollo Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue like a racehorse kept too long under starter's orders. "Forgive me if I stand up and walk about", he says. "It's all this energy."

There is indeed plenty of energy here - a barrel-chested Charlie Bubbles a quarter of a century on, now finding himself in the pivotal role of a traumatic American drama making the transition from Hampstead Theatre to the West End. He opens tonight in *Orphans*, a three-hander written by Lyle Kessler and first produced in Chicago and New York by the Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

The question has to be asked: what was an actor of Finney's magnitude doing in a nice little theatre like Hampstead, without, at that stage, the guarantee of a West End transfer? "The point about Hampstead", he says, "is that it's a little like being on the road. I don't mean to be rude when I say that. It was the right size. It had the same capacity as the Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago and the West Side Arts in New York to which it transferred."

As a company, Steppenwolf is noted for the sheer energy with which it invests its productions. When it acquired Albert Finney for the part of Harold in *Orphans* it was compensating the endemic tension of its approach with the essentially English acting style of Finney himself.



Kidnapped: Albert Finney as a Chicago con man - "one of those special theatrical experiences"

up and said there was a part which he thought might suit me. Now, as fate would have it, I was going to Manhattan in the next few days, and I went and saw the play, and by the interval I had decided that I wanted to be involved with these people. It was like hearing a different kind of jazz, played by different musicians."

Seeing Finney perform on the play's last night at Hampstead, one was struck by the spectacle of an actor of this stature making the journey, albeit a hazardous one, back to the roots of his trade, and exposing himself to an entirely new set of influences.

emerge, and it wasn't until the end of the third week that I found I could feel at all relaxed." Even after 30 years in the business, Finney remains an obsessive actor, living and breathing the material of the moment. "In a way, this was a godsend for me, because Jeff Fahey, who plays the part of the elder orphan, was oev to the cast, the same as I was. So it was a terrific help to see the director Gary Sinise work with him. . . how he could instill into him that intensity of feeling."

'It was something that enabled me to regain my sea legs'

Finney's re-emergence on the London stage is that it should be an American role - admittedly one for which he has done long hours of homework. But he does not share the sense of surprise. "When I was doing Luther, I used to go to monasteries and sit with the brothers, just to see what it was like, all those men sitting and eating with each other. For this one, well, I remember all the dead-end kids in the films with Bogart, and that tradition of gangsters with people like Cagney and Tracy. I also had a tape made for me by someone from Steppenwolf with four Chicagoans talking, and I listened to it over and over again."

"And of course I've been living in New York, so I hear them talking, every time I take a cab to work. I have my ear as an actor. Actually I think I once blew a film deal in LA because a guy who ran the studio had an intrusive S sound - is that it? - and I listened to him absolutely fascinated, and suddenly found myself saying to him 'simply smashing', just because I'd been watching his mouth move, and imitating it to myself. I couldn't help it."

"But, you see, my generation of kids, we used to imitate all the movie stars. If there was a Jolson movie in town, then we'd do Jolson, if it was Bogey, we'd do Bogey, and so on."

Orphans is a draining theatrical experience, for the cast no less than the audience, and Finney would have it no other way. It chronicles a sea-change of domestic responsibilities between a street criminal elder brother and the sibling whom he has kept, in every sense, in the dark, in order to enhance his own sense of indispensability in the absence of a bona fide parent. All this is called into question by the advent of a "kidnap victim" eager to impart his own street-wisdom evenhandedly to both boys.

show over more or less in the form in which it was done in America. Go back to *West Side Story*. When that arrived, it was a revelation to English dancers to see a US dance company doing the things it did for the four months prior to its replacement. If the English dancers hadn't seen it, they wouldn't have known what the Americans were talking about."

When he tries to analyse the style of Steppenwolf's Gary Sinise, director of *Orphans*, Finney goes back to 1959, when he was understudying Olivier in *Carlotinus*. "After having done four or five performances in the part, I became aware of the fact that a great actor can take a role with a wide range, and make it even wider. Olivier himself had laid down a very clear blueprint, and so it was not the easiest thing to understudy. If there had been two comparative graphs, mine would have been wobbling around on the equator, but Olivier's would have consisted of great sweeps up and down to both the poles. I believe that Gary Sinise is doing an Olivier on the directorial level, pushing his actors to the very extremes of emotion."

Alan Franks

Trouble brewing

The cost of the coffee in your cup is going up. Droughts, wars, earthquakes and assorted disasters natural and manmade have pushed up world coffee prices to their highest levels for a decade. Supermarket prices have risen twice this year already, and more increases are on the way.

The finest and most expensive coffees are often arabicas, which are mainly used for roasted and ground beans. Robustas are turned into instant coffee. But all coffees are grown between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn in areas of high rainfall. They need slopes for drainage, plenty of sun to ripen the fruit (which develops into the familiar bean), and steady warmth between 25 and 30 degrees centigrade.

16 million this year. That has combined with wars in Uganda and Angola, and earthquakes and floods in Latin America, to disrupt the balance between supply and demand on the world market. There is also the fear that a frost in the middle of the year - the southern hemisphere winter - could inflict more damage.

Resisting the corporate raiders

Stephen Aris concludes his series on takeovers with a look at a family firm where management and workers united to fight off a bid

To the early 1970s Victor Watson, chairman of the printing and games company John Waddington, created something of a stir by rounding up half a dozen tycoons and sitting them down at Brown's Hotel to play Monopoly. His company's best known product. The contest was won by the late Sir John Cocho of Tesco, thanks to some useful advice from Watson himself.



Playing for real: Victor Watson and Robert Maxwell, who did not pass go

Comet Products, and a British firm making self-adhesive labels, for a total of £7.4 million. Although the other benefits of the battle are not so easily measured, they are real. Victor Watson and his managing director, David Perry, who together orchestrated the anti-Maxwell campaign, are convinced that the company would never have pulled through had not the workforce united behind them to keep

There is no doubt that the company has benefited. The other tangible by-product is financial. In two years, as Maxwell struggled for control, the company's shares rose fourfold: a £10 million company in early 1983 became a £40 million one by the end of 1984. When it was all over Waddington used its new-found financial muscle to make a couple of friendly takeovers of its own. Last December it acquired an American plastics company.

he had little difficulty in casting Robert Maxwell as the bogeyman. Maxwell first gave notice of his intentions in a telephone call to Watson at 7.30 on the morning of May 17, 1983. He said that he was coming to save the company, that everybody should work together, and that he intended to make Watson vice-chairman of his master company, BPCC. Watson, who was already fighting off another takeover bid from a local firm called Norton Opax, told Maxwell to get lost. Two hours later the formal bid arrived. Maxwell was offering 240p per share, which valued the company at around £12 million, slightly better than the Norton Opax bid.

The next step was to assemble all the shop stewards and other representatives of the workforce and to make an unshamed appeal for loyalty and solidarity. As a former Maxwell employee, David Perry, the managing director and former England rugby international, voiced his lack of enthusiasm, and was supported by a union official who had also once worked for a company taken over by Maxwell.

The meeting had the desired result. Over the next 18 months, so Watson says, the loyalty of the workforce never wavered. "We have our share of militants, but throughout the bid we never heard a word from them. Everybody was determined to fight off Maxwell."

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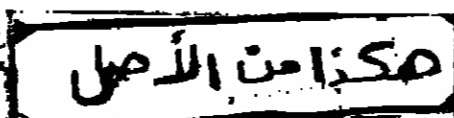
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Tomorrow: Burgess on Beckett Anthony Burgess profiles Samuel Beckett, the enigmatic playwright, who celebrates his 80th birthday this week

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Progress brings its own dilemma for the childless, Thomson Prentice writes

The test tube maybe...

The bright clusters of snapshots pinned to the memo-board in a London clinic are a constant reminder that at least some dreams come true. Every picture of a new-born baby tells its own story of a successful fight against infertility.

More than anything else in her life, Tessa Horton wants to add to that collection. But she is 38 now and after five years of disappointment, she knows the odds are against her.

Neither she nor her husband Michael will surrender their dream while the doctors continue to offer them even a slender hope. "I tend to live from one appointment to the next", she says, after travelling 40 miles from her Surrey home to see a specialist in the clinic at Hammersmith Hospital.

For the Hortons, and an estimated one million other couples in Britain striving to overcome childlessness, doctors can resort to a remarkable and increasing number of treatments.

Advances in the use of drugs, surgical techniques and in vitro fertilization, mean that babies are now being born to couples who until quite recently would have been described as hopeless cases.

Failure to ovulate may be responsible for between 20 and 30 per cent of all infertility, but it is one of the most successful areas for treatment with drugs.

Menstrual cycles are controlled by the pituitary and hypothalamus glands in the brain. Ovulation depends on the complex interplay of the pituitary hormone FSH (follicle stimulating hormone) and the hormone oestrogen in the ovary.

Unless this delicate relationship is precisely balanced, a woman is unlikely to ovulate and thus cannot conceive.

The drug clomiphene is an anti-oestrogen that has been used for many years and is highly successful in inducing ovulation by causing a rise in the production of FSH and LH (lutinizing hormone), another important pituitary chemical.

Other fertility drugs are based on the gonadotrophin hormones which

Side effects range from miscarriages to multiple births

act directly and with great effectiveness on the ovary. Recent refinements have led to the use of small pumps, placed under the skin, which release regulated pulses of hormones into the patient's bloodstream throughout the menstrual cycle.

Successful as fertility drugs are, there are inevitably side-effects. Depending on the drug, the dosage and the patient, these may range from miscarriage to multiple births of four or more babies.

For some women, the risk of having too many babies is preferable to the prospect of having none. Doctors are continuing to research means of reducing that risk, and today the birth of more than twins as a result of fertility drugs is considered unusual.

There have been advances, too, in surgery to repair blocked or damaged fallopian tubes. Conventional surgery has been almost completely replaced by microsurgery. Using a microscope and the finest electrical instruments, the surgeon can reverse sterilizations, and unblock or repair the damaged areas.

Such surgery has been successful in up to three out of four cases, but even so the overall live birth rate resulting from it has been as low as about 13 per cent.

However, some surgeons are now applying lasers to tubal surgery. Mr



Paula Youngs

Simon Wood, a consultant gynaecologist at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, has achieved a 33 per cent live birth rate in a small number of patients by using a laser. He performs the operation, known as a salpingostomy, using a laser beam with a microscope, to remove blockages at the outer ends of the fallopian tubes. There is no tissue damage caused by the laser and therefore less chance of the blockage recurring," he says.

Following the operation, one patient, Mrs Shona Ankers, 25, of Exeter, succeeded in becoming pregnant and earlier this month gave birth to a son. She and her husband Stephen, 27, agreed to the surgery as an alternative to seeking in vitro fertilization.

Unfortunately, neither drugs nor surgery are as effective in treating infertility as they are in women patients. Most male disorders are entirely untreatable, although some encouraging progress has been made in the last few years.

Surgery can be successful in reversing vasectomies, but fully restored fertility may result in less than half the cases. Researchers in the United States have found that deterioration of the testicles can occur in otherwise healthy men following a vasectomy.

This new finding, reported last November, follows other research indicating that the body's immune system produces an anti-sperm antibody following vasectomy. About 30 per cent of infertile men are believed to produce antibodies to their own sperm, but treatment to counteract this condition has been developed at the Chelsea Hospital for Women and St Bartholemew's Hospital, London, and elsewhere.

A success rate of 33 per cent in pregnancies has been achieved so far.

Scores of drugs are available to try to increase sperm production and improve sperm quality, but in the opinion of one leading specialist, none of them has shown any significant advantage.

For many infertile men and women, the well-publicized developments in in vitro fertilization appear to offer the greatest hope. But just what are their chances of having a test-tube baby?

Since the birth of Louise Brown in Oldham in 1978, more than 2,000 test-tube babies have been born around the world. Last year, the first frozen embryo baby was born in Australia.

Last month, Britain's first frozen embryo baby, Gregory Jackson, was born to his 34 year old mother and her schoolteacher husband, as a result of in vitro fertilization treatment at the Bourn Hall clinic, near Cambridge, of IVF pioneers Dr Robert Edwards and Mr Patrick Steptoe.

In Britain, America and Australia, many hundreds of embryos are now stored in liquid nitrogen tanks at 200 degrees C below zero. They are the potential children of infertile couples who have undergone IVF treatment.

Some embryos produced through IVF have been donated to other childless couples. The freezing and storage of sperm has also been successfully developed. Last November, Australian scientists announced they were the first team to successfully freeze and thaw human ova, which can subsequently be fertilized in vitro.

But despite the extraordinary advances, IVF treatment is still much more likely to fail than succeed. Only about 15 per cent of patients produce babies as a result, although research has shown that women's expectations are up to three times higher.

Test-tube baby treatment should be seen as the last resort, usually appropriate only when all else has failed," says Mr Robert Winston, director of infertility clinic and IVF programme at Hammersmith Hospital.

"It is one of the least successful of all fertility treatments and has taken attention away from other treatments which are usually far more likely to be of help."

That view is challenged by Dr Edwards and Mr Steptoe at Bourn Hall. "We don't believe IVF should be seen as a last resort. It has a very important place in the treatment of infertility and deserves more recognition as such", Dr Edwards says.

Professional rivalry is intense among IVF specialists and it is common to hear criticisms of one unit's work by scientists in another.

Edwards and Steptoe have been especially critical of the practice by some clinics of replacing three or more fertilized eggs in the mother's womb to increase the chances of a live birth.

They believe that this practice reduces the chances of all the embryos surviving to maturity, endangers the health of the mother, and may result in a multiple birth of premature babies.

And the impact on a childless couple of becoming the parents of up to four infants may be extremely successful, they say. Last October, a retired art historian, Mr Tony del Renzio, aged 70, found himself in such a situation. His wife Doris, 38, gave birth to two girls and two boys after IVF treatment at Hammersmith Hospital.

"I must admit we would have been happier if we had been able to have just one baby", Mr del Renzio says. "But we were warned about the risk of a multiple birth, and we took that risk willingly."

The babies were the third set of quads to be born following IVF at Hammersmith in the last four years. Many more single births there have also resulted from the treatment.

Mr Winston, the clinic's director, agrees that multiple births should be avoided, but argues that until techniques are improved through research, it is reasonable to offer patients the maximum chance of a baby with the least number of attempts.

Such techniques are likely to be much more successful within the next few years as new research yields its potential.

At Edinburgh University's reproductive endocrinology department, Professor David Baird is trying to develop tests to identify which fertilized human eggs are healthy, and which are abnormal. They hope to be able to exclude abnormal "pre-embryos" from IVF treatment, implanting in the mother only those which they judge to be most likely to mature and survive through pregnancy.

Undoubtedly the skills of specialist such as Professor Baird will lead to better treatment and benefits to other forms of infertility. Much depends, however, on research, and it is research on human embryos which has aroused the fiercest controversy.

The recommendation that restricted research should be permitted under the regulations of a statutory licensing authority has failed to impress many opponents.

Mr Enoch Powell has been unsuccessful in seeking legislation to ban such research, but many MPs have similar views and the next episode in the parliamentary campaign has already begun with the publication on January 24 of a private member's Bill very similar to Mr Powell's.

Rival factions in politics and the medical profession have formed their own pressure groups to try to sway public opinion.

Research on human embryos has raised the fiercest controversy



Arianna Stassinopoulos: lead role in a designer wedding

Arianna, social rocket

Ken "Kick" Start, independent TV producer, is pitching an idea for a prime time soap opera to network executive Rushing Yardage in the Polo Lounge of the Beverly Hills Hotel.

"I see it as a Joan Collins or Anjelica Huston vehicle - two more Mario", says Start. "It's about this superwoman, Young Beautiful A genius. She is from Italy, or Greece. Let's make it Greece."

"She is sent to England to be educated. Oxford or what? She is the brightest star of her generation. She meets all the Right People. They love her. She has affairs with some of the Right People. She dumps them."

"She writes. She pontificates. Books, TV, magazines, newspapers. But is she happy?"

"She goes to New York. Conquest, conquest all the way. Glimmerati. Literati. She meets the Right People. They love her. She has affairs with the Right People. She dumps them. Is she happy?"

"Then she has this wild romance with the heir to a gigantic Texas oil fortune. Figure we can end the first season with the climactic event - a glittering society wedding with New York's elite donating kidneys to be invited."

"The working title is Arianna."

The story of Arianna Stassinopoulos - the "rise and rise" as one New York magazine has called her thoroughbred stride in a social steepclimb - may never be the subject of a prime time soap opera but all the ingredients are there: beauty, genius, conflict, passion and oom, coormous wealth.

On Saturday, 300 Right People will gather at the Roma oesque-style St Bartholomew's church in Manhattan for her ostentatious wedding to Michael Huffington, the bright, hard Texas oil and gas fortune conservatively estimated at \$300 million. As a social event it may rival the forthcoming wedding of Caroline Kennedy.

Bishop Edwin Moore, Episcopal Bishop of New York, will officiate at a ceremony written by Arianna and combining Protestant and Greek traditions to the background strains of Haydn and Telemann.

Wealth marries fame this weekend in a soap opera setting, reports Peter Fearon

The guest list is apparently an abstract of Who's Who and The Forbes 400 although few names have surfaced.

The matron of honour is Ann Getty, wife of Gordon Getty, arguably the world's richest individual. She is also Arianna's patron and surrogate mother, the woman who has helped guide her over many a social obstacle.

The attendants, to be clad in creations of designer Paul-Louis Orrier, will be Lucky Roosevelt, chief of protocol at the White House; Barbara Walters, the ABC interviewer who has gained more celebrity than the celebrities she interviews; Terry Huffington, the groom's sister; and Agapi Stassinopoulos, Arianna's sister.

Guests include Princess Michael of Keat, publisher Lord Weidenfeld, Henry and Nancy Kissinger and Mrs Alfred Bloomingdale, widow of the department store millionaire.

The night before the wedding there will be a cosy dinner for 100 at New York's Asia Society and there will be what a member of Arianna's staff calls "a small reception" for the 300 wedding guests at New York's palatial Metropolitan Club.

The wedding is the climax of a glittering career as a single woman in American society and doubtless the start of a hectic one as a hostess. Her publishers may be forgiven for wondering what it will do for her writing career - the manuscript of her Picasso biography is reportedly nearly two years late.

Arianna came to the United States in 1981 to promote her biography of Maria Callas; subsequently, it was alleged that an already published work on Callas had been plundered for the biography and there was litigation and an out-of-court settlement.

Arianna remained, as Americans say, "unfazed". Her entree into American society comprised a letter to Lucky Roosevelt and a series of introductions from, among others, Lord Weidenfeld and Lord Bernstein.

She was befriended by Barbara Walters and began filling index files with Right People telephone numbers, many of them gleaned at events to which she was invited by Ano Getty. She followed up the social leads assiduously, helped by a small staff of personal aides.

Her arrival as a celebrity came with a lengthy, colourful profile in New York magazine. She was pictured gliding about New York harbour in an open speedboat, not a hair out of place; working in her study; greeting guests; even balancing grapes on her head.

"When she goes to the ballet", the magazine reported, "she is hailed and cheek kissed by so many people it seems the performance will have to be delayed."

It also noted, prophetically, her "desire to get into society and find a wealthy husband". Arianna has never confirmed that this was indeed her desire, but she has certainly succeeded in finding one.

She moved to Los Angeles, apparently bent on cooquering the west coast as thoroughly as she has New York and Washington.

In September last year she met Michael Huffington at the San Francisco Symphony - introduced by the ubiquitous Mrs Getty. Huffington shuns publicity even as Arianna craves it. The Houston Post library department reveals it has "just one iddy biddy clip" on him referring to his nomination as Assistant Secretary for Commerce in 1984. He withdrew.

It is apparently on his insistence that as little information as possible is being revealed about his wedding and that is also one of the reasons why Arianna is not giving interviews prior to her nuptials.

Huffington graduated from Stanford University with a BA in economics and a BSc in engineering and, reflecting the fact that oil millionaires do most of their prospecting on Wall Street, went on to Harvard Business School for an MBA. He is a senior executive in his father's company.

It is not a biography to set pulses racing among Dallas scriptwriters, but it has the aura of moony and status. Arianna can supply enough of the rest to keep the show in the ratings long after the opening night.

One day my chintz will come

FIRST PERSON

Recently there was a two-day exhibition for the furnishing trade at Kensington Exhibition Centre. It was called "Better Buy British" and was held to persuade people to do just that.

Britain designs and prints some of the most beautiful fabrics in the world. The ranges of glazed chintz - now enjoying an unprecedented revival both here and in America - are particularly mouth-watering.

And many of us would indeed like to buy British. The big problem comes when you actually try to do so. A personal story illustrates how very difficult it can be to get the British fabric you want hanging up at your windows or covering your chairs.

At the beginning of April, I'm still waiting. The material has not yet arrived in the shop. To add insult to injury, I am informed that there will be a price rise when the fabric is eventually delivered.

In the meantime, another room needed curtains. I found just the stuff, again a glazed chintz - yes, I'm a convert, too - in the Colefax and Fowler range. The shop rather shamefacedly rang to say there was a 10-week wait for this particular design and that I could expect it to arrive around the end of May.

A neighbour, also doing up her house, told me she had to wait four months for some curtains for a bedroom. She too had ordered British fabric. Was all this just bad luck, an unhappy coincidence, or is there something less than 100 per cent efficient about the British furnishing industry?

It seems it is the latter. In fact, my neighbour and I can count ourselves among the fortunate ones. Delays of six months, apparently, are not uncommon, and some people are now having to wait up to

two and a half years for certain special designs. Such is the demand that our fabric leaders, run on distinctly cottage-like lines, simply cannot cope.

Henry Greenfield of Colefax and Fowler told me: "Everybody wants glazed chintz. Business has doubled in the past two years and the machinery and staffing levels are inadequate to deal with the new demand. With three-and-a-half million people unemployed, one is tempted to ask, why don't they take more people on and get more machinery?"

"Just lately", Mr Greenfield continued, "there has been an absolute glut of orders. We, like most fabric firms, have to rely on a few small fabric printers, who quickly fill up with work. We all have to wait our turn."

Allison Richards, buying director of Habitat, confessed that she is often in despair about the British furnishing industry. She said: "On the whole, British manufacturers are absolutely terrible, really amateurish."

"Once they quote a delivery time, you find they rarely stick to it. The casual system does hurry us, but we've just had to get used to it. These delivery dates are a problem throughout the whole home furnishing industry in this country. Manufacturers may quote March 1, but often May 1 will do. It's got to the point where you are actually surprised if it does come on time."

"At Habitat we like to buy British, but so often we have to order from abroad. We have a ridiculous situation in this country where there are just five vat (a form of dyeing) printers left, and we have to go

to whichever firm is behaving itself at the time.

"It's true there is now a huge demand, but so many British firms are living in the past. In the days when retailers could carry a lot of stock, it didn't matter so much, but most like to offer a large selection and so they can now only have samples in the shop."

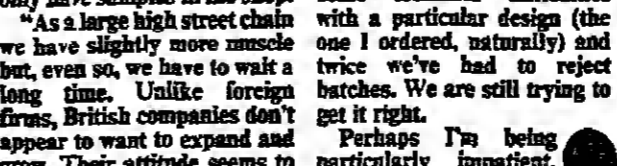
"As a large high street chain we have slightly more muscle but, even so, we have to wait a long time. Unlike foreign firms, British companies don't appear to want to expand and grow. Their attitude seems to be that if they've got enough work and a fall order book, why should they worry about getting more orders? You've got me on my hobby horse

now", she added apologetically.

Liberty, on the other hand, were distinctly huffy over any suggestion that there could be something wrong with the British furnishing trade. Their official spokesman said: "We have 189 designs, and at any one time, 90 per cent will be available. There have been some technical difficulties with a particular design (the one I ordered, naturally) and twice, we've had to reject batches. We are still trying to get it right."

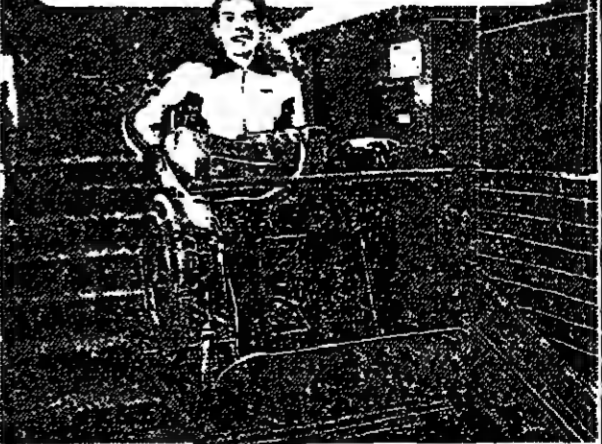
Perhaps I'm being particularly impatient, but it seems to me that four months is an awfully long time to wait.

Liz Hodgkinson



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One day my chintz will come. FIRST PERSON. Recently there was a two-day exhibition for the furnishing trade at Kensington Exhibition Centre. It was called "Better Buy British" and was held to persuade people to do just that. Britain designs and prints some of the most beautiful fabrics in the world. The ranges of glazed chintz - now enjoying an unprecedented revival both here and in America - are particularly mouth-watering. And many of us would indeed like to buy British. The big problem comes when you actually try to do so. A personal story illustrates how very difficult it can be to get the British fabric you want hanging up at your windows or covering your chairs. At the beginning of April, I'm still waiting. The material has not yet arrived in the shop. To add insult to injury, I am informed that there will be a price rise when the fabric is eventually delivered. In the meantime, another room needed curtains. I found just the stuff, again a glazed chintz - yes, I'm a convert, too - in the Colefax and Fowler range. The shop rather shamefacedly rang to say there was a 10-week wait for this particular design and that I could expect it to arrive around the end of May. A neighbour, also doing up her house, told me she had to wait four months for some curtains for a bedroom. She too had ordered British fabric. Was all this just bad luck, an unhappy coincidence, or is there something less than 100 per cent efficient about the British furnishing industry? It seems it is the latter. In fact, my neighbour and I can count ourselves among the fortunate ones. Delays of six months, apparently, are not uncommon, and some people are now having to wait up to two and a half years for certain special designs. Such is the demand that our fabric leaders, run on distinctly cottage-like lines, simply cannot cope. Henry Greenfield of Colefax and Fowler told me: "Everybody wants glazed chintz. Business has doubled in the past two years and the machinery and staffing levels are inadequate to deal with the new demand. With three-and-a-half million people unemployed, one is tempted to ask, why don't they take more people on and get more machinery?" "Just lately", Mr Greenfield continued, "there has been an absolute glut of orders. We, like most fabric firms, have to rely on a few small fabric printers, who quickly fill up with work. We all have to wait our turn." Allison Richards, buying director of Habitat, confessed that she is often in despair about the British furnishing industry. She said: "On the whole, British manufacturers are absolutely terrible, really amateurish." "Once they quote a delivery time, you find they rarely stick to it. The casual system does hurry us, but we've just had to get used to it. These delivery dates are a problem throughout the whole home furnishing industry in this country. Manufacturers may quote March 1, but often May 1 will do. It's got to the point where you are actually surprised if it does come on time." "At Habitat we like to buy British, but so often we have to order from abroad. We have a ridiculous situation in this country where there are just five vat (a form of dyeing) printers left, and we have to go to whichever firm is behaving itself at the time. "It's true there is now a huge demand, but so many British firms are living in the past. In the days when retailers could carry a lot of stock, it didn't matter so much, but most like to offer a large selection and so they can now only have samples in the shop." "As a large high street chain we have slightly more muscle but, even so, we have to wait a long time. Unlike foreign firms, British companies don't appear to want to expand and grow. Their attitude seems to be that if they've got enough work and a fall order book, why should they worry about getting more orders? You've got me on my hobby horse now", she added apologetically. Liberty, on the other hand, were distinctly huffy over any suggestion that there could be something wrong with the British furnishing trade. Their official spokesman said: "We have 189 designs, and at any one time, 90 per cent will be available. There have been some technical difficulties with a particular design (the one I ordered, naturally) and twice, we've had to reject batches. We are still trying to get it right." Perhaps I'm being particularly impatient, but it seems to me that four months is an awfully long time to wait. Liz Hodgkinson

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LAND OF SMILES

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, Japan's prime minister, is anxious to please — or at least appease — his free world trading partners. Nothing could be more embarrassing than for the host nation to find next month's economic summit in Tokyo dominated by more querulous European and North American threats over Japan's still-rising trade surplus. He would much prefer some mutual back-slapping over inflation, falling interest rates and currency adjustments to prepare the ground for worthy sentiments on financial help for the third world — the new focus of Japanese foreign policy as the second largest economy becomes the world's largest creditor nation. The United States and Western Europe will not easily be satisfied however.

The most important condition for reducing Japan's surpluses and its dependence on export growth has been put in place by the 30 per cent rise of the yen against the dollar. But the effects will not show through in Japan's trade figures nearly fast enough to satisfy its critics. Improving terms of trade and falling oil import costs will boost the immediate surplus. In any case, Europe and North America have become convinced that Japan's competitive success stems ultimately from fundamental but somehow unfair features of its economic structure that must be changed to overcome political strains on trade.

In response, Mr Nakasone has produced a series of packages that have yet to deliver. Official non-tariff barriers have followed formal tariffs into the dustbin. Export

promotion agencies have switched to import promotion, defence spending is being stepped up, the financial system liberalised. Japanese companies have built factories abroad where they used to export. Yet still Japan has conquered more export markets while manufactured imports have failed to flood in, leaving the Europeans and Americans more frustrated.

The report of the special committee of establishment figures under former Bank of Japan governor Mr Haruo Maekawa, now issued for maximum public relations effect in front of the summit, presents the most comprehensive proposals so far to substitute consumption for exports as the engine of the economy, even if few of its details are new. They seek to stimulate home demand by government spending, by removing controls on housing and construction, and above all by encouraging Japanese people to save less, work less and spend more, particularly on imports.

The importance of this report lies more in its reception at home than in summit public relations. For it gives the backing for Mr Nakasone or his successor to push through policies that run counter to the values of hard work and thrift instilled in Japanese society since the Meiji revolution. The message is as bizarre to the average Japanese as it would to Britons used to quite different exhortations.

Some features are clearly more practical than others. Increased spending on housing and public works is overdue. Taxing returns on small sav-

ings would be deeply unpopular. The more positive changes are in any case likely to come about as a result of yen revaluation. But they will take time. A recent long-term forecast, anticipating the change of tack, concluded that Japan would reach trade balance by around 1995.

Even then, Europeans may be disappointed at the lack of growth of manufactured exports to Japan, unless there is a sudden mass conversion to learning the Japanese language. Demands for Japan to quantify targets for manufactured imports may well continue to go unanswered. They could be met in the short run only by increased state intervention and public spending. It may be no bad thing, however, for some of the demands of Japan's summit partners to be left unsatisfied. The call for Japan to fall in step with the mature economies of Europe and North America owes more to the imbalance between Japan's economic strength and its political weakness than to sense.

Japan has succeeded to excess by sticking to the Victorian virtues of Samuel Smiles that its citizens absorbed a hundred years ago, but which have been cast aside in Europe in favour of consuming on credit at rising interest rates at the expense of investment and employment. These are just the virtues needed in poor countries if they are to develop. If Japan should adopt Western ways, there are plenty of others adopting the Japanese way to discomfit the successors of the summiters in Tokyo.

CUTS WITHOUT JUDGEMENT

History repeats. In 1981, the University Grants Committee did what it does well, making resource judgements based on academic criteria with faint reference to politicians (and taxpayers) priorities. It delivered a reduction in real spending, primarily by cutting the number of student places. It so happened that the way it made cuts also made a good deal of nonsense of ministers' brave talk of a switch from social studies and humanities into applied science and technology. Now the nonsense looks to have happened again.

This time the National Advisory Body on Local Authority Higher Education, a body parallel in function to the UGC, has delivered cuts in spending by cutting places. And where is education to cease? Wolverhampton Polytechnic is to eliminate engineering, so much for Black Country economic regeneration. Design education is to end at Teeside Polytechnic. Civil engineering is to go at Sunderland.

Of course no single degree should be sacrosanct. Of course there must be some

academic logic behind the NAB's decisions. What dismay is, first and foremost, the necessity of substantial reductions in places at all. Demand for places in higher education remains high. To cut places strikes at opportunity. Worse there appears to be no scheme, either by region or by subject, connecting areas of nation to economic prospect or (with reference to courses in fine art) the culture of the nation.

In the nature of the game some of these cuts have been selected for maximum public impact. Mr Christopher Price, director of Leeds Polytechnic, will naturally make much of proposals to close the department with such sculptors as Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth in its pedigree. And there will be many who will wonder how the government can countenance the closure of social services training courses when it has accepted a spate of recent recommendations for enhancement of training in such specialties as child care and the prevention of abuse.

The response to all this is not bland protestation against any and all reductions in public outlays on higher

education. On the contrary it is to take issue with the assumptions regularly made by the National Advisory Body as by the University Grants Committee (and regularly accepted by the government) that it is student numbers that must bear the brunt of spending constraint.

The UGC and now NAB have been allowed to assert that there is an irreducible minimum cost per student. The arithmetic is simple. Unit costs cannot be reduced, so to deliver a Treasury-ordered aggregate, across-the-board cuts in places must follow. An alternative higher education policy would have examined much more critically the "unit of resource" argument. That would have led to questioning some deeply-entrenched assumptions: about academics' use of their time, and the balance of research and teaching.

They would have been hard questions, but asking them could have prevented the astonishing sight of a nation that relies for well-being on the qualities of its people cutting the provision for intellectual and practical attainment.

A CASE FOR COMMERCIAL COMPETITION

The Cabinet committee responsible for allocating the £240 million contract on two auxiliary oil vessels, for which both Swan Hunter of Tyneside and Harland and Wolff of Belfast have submitted tenders, yesterday postponed a decision on the matter. Ministers are now expected to take a further two weeks to make their choice.

It is a prudent delay. Swan Hunter's coup in the early hours of yesterday morning, in which the company's executives themselves launched the frigate Coventry, thereby beating a strike and meeting the Navy's deadline, had created an atmosphere in which the proper commercial comparisons seemed unreasonably cold. It evoked both nostalgia for the escape of HMS Amethyst along the Yangtze and Thatcherite admiration for the dash and spirit of the new entrepreneurs of privatisation.

If the government proved capable of rising above these appeals to its sensibilities (and, perhaps more important, to the sensibilities of its supporters), the political significance of both shipyards could hardly escape it. Both are in areas of distressingly high unemployment. But as the Chairman of Swan Hunter pointed out in a letter to this newspaper, unemployment on Tyneside is now higher than in Belfast. And whereas sympathy for the unemployed of the North-East is undiluted, the seemingly

endless crisis in Ulster, currently dramatized by the attacks on the RUC, has eroded public support for measures to alleviate economic problems there. The name of De Lorean reminds us that there has, after all, been a plethora of such measures in the last few years. If it were simply a choice between assisting Tyneside or Belfast, popular sympathy would lean in favour of Tyneside.

But, as the managements of both shipyards concede, awarding a defense contract should not be a matter of charity. It should aim at obtaining the best product at the cheapest price. That means, in practice, a system of competitive tendering — namely, choosing the company which puts in the lowest tender while it also meets the specifications laid down by the Ministry of Defense.

In this instance, Harland and Wolff has put to what is at face value the lowest tender. Swan Hunter advances several arguments — some substantial, some less so — to urge its rejection nonetheless.

The company asserts, for instance, that the Ministry should rely on companies like itself with a recent, proven track record in naval shipbuilding. But there would be little point in competitive tendering if the traditional suppliers were automatically chosen. New entrants into the market deserve an even chance.

Swan Hunter also argues that its expectation of gaining this contract was included in the terms on which the present management arranged its buy-out. But that claim treats the contract as a disguised subsidy — which is utterly inconsistent with Swan Hunter's main argument that Harland and Wolff's tender benefits from the general subsidy of £37 million it has received over the last 11 months.

Swan Hunter concedes that a team of independent accountants has certified that their rival's tender price has been sealed off from this general subsidy. It goes on to make the point, however, that the nationalised shipyard will inevitably call upon the taxpayer to meet its losses if the project overruns. There is, in short, an implicit subsidy to any tender from a nationalised industry.

That argument is not without merit. It is, indeed, the main argument for privatisation. For as long as nationalised industries are with us, however, the government cannot automatically reject their tendering for particular contracts on the general grounds that they might overrun.

What it can — and to this case should — do is satisfy itself that the company can perform the contract successfully by a rigorous and open investigation and set real penalties for non-fulfilment. Having done that, it should award the contract on plain commercial grounds.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How proposed poly axe will fall

From the Secretary of State for Education and Science
Sir, Today's front page report about cuts in places for students at polytechnics proposed by the National Advisory Body (NAB) gave an incomplete account of the position and will cause an unnecessary degree of alarm among students and their parents.

Your Education Correspondent wrote that "the cuts result from a decision taken by the committee of the NAB". No such decisions have been taken. At this stage the committee, which is chaired by my ministerial colleague, Mr George Walden, MP, and whose majority membership is representative of local authorities, has done no more than make a single guess about the likely level of public funding in 1987-88. Decisions on the level of funding will not be taken by the Government until later this year.

Nevertheless, on the basis of its single guess, the NAB committee has instructed its staff to make proposals keeping the number of student places within a total that would involve no fall in resources per student. The NAB will not advise me until much later this year whether the number of places should be reduced and if so how this might be done by institution and by subject. Decisions on these matters are for the Secretary of State and not the NAB.

There are three points I must make about the approach favoured by the local authority members of the NAB committee. First, I have repeatedly suggested to the NAB that it should not plan on the basis of a single assumption about support from public funds. Of course I acknowledge the consequent difficulty in planning, but it is no more than common sense in such circumstances for any organisation, public or private, to consider a number of possibilities. This NAB has chosen not to do.

Secondly, there is room for substantial difference of view on whether and to what extent the

number of student places needs to be reduced even if NAB's assumption about public funding proves correct. The polytechnics and colleges have done a magnificent job in the 1980s. They now provide for 27 per cent more students than in 1979 and are more cost-effective than ever before — the number of students per academic member of staff (SSR) has risen from 8.2 to 10.8.

There is evidence that young people and their parents increasingly accuse the polytechnics of offering high quality vocational courses, especially in business studies and engineering. However, on the NAB's own reckoning there is still room for the polytechnics and other local authority colleges to take more students overall without increasing the number of staff (NAB's target SSR is 12.0:1).

Thirdly, the polytechnic and college lecturers were awarded last year a 7.25 per cent pay increase by the awarding authorities. This increase was well above the level of inflation and was awarded on the understanding that the lecturers' union would discuss changes in working practice that could lead to significant efficiency gains. I do not see how the NAB committee, which is largely representative of the employers of these staff, can so readily ignore the contribution which is to be expected from these discussions.

I regret that you, Sir, should have published a one-sided report. It does no service to the polytechnics and other colleges who had been so successful in taking large numbers of additional students and in showing enterprise in developing courses and activities of other kinds which are of service to the economy.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH JOSEPH,
Department of Education and Science,
Elizabeth House,
York Road, SE1,
April 8.

Shipyard duel

From Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin
Sir, Anyone who has the country's maritime interests at heart must feel dismayed at the prospect of either Harland and Wolff or Swan Hunter being severely damaged, or even destroyed, by the handling of a defence contract for two auxiliary oil replenishment vessels (AORs).

Both companies are major national assets and the rigid adherence to current defence contract policy could cost the country not only one or two highly talented design teams and workforces in this area, but also the basis for any future competition.

Since a total of six AORs is planned, surely it would be in the national long-term interest if some sensible flexibility was adopted. For example, contracts could be awarded to one company for ships 1 and 3 and to the other for ships 2 and 4. Subsequent orders for the remaining two ships could be held in abeyance until the competitive performance of each company had been proved.

Yours faithfully,
A. T. F. GRIFFIN, Chairman,
The British Maritime League,
Moat Cottage,
The Drive,
Bosham,
West Sussex.

Musical excellence

From Mr Peter Heyworth
Sir, In his admirable piece (April 1) on the astonishing odium incurred by the Royal Academy of Music for its plan to establish itself as "a centre of excellence", Bernard Levin has understated his case.

The plan to set up a salaried orchestra in London, such as whose standards might stand comparison with those in Chicago, Vienna, Berlin, etc, did not founder because the money was not available. It came to nothing because the Arts Council could not persuade any of the four London orchestras to accept it.

The fuss about the RAM is a further example of our current

dedication to mediocrity and "fair shares for all". Japan lives on its industrial excellence, the German standard of living is based in part on the excellence of German cars. The French not only produce excellent perfumes and wine, but even have the effrontery to take pride in such products.

How, I wonder, are 50 million people to be maintained at a standard of life which we have come to regard as God-given, on a small island that is dedicated to mediocrity? The state of our car exports offers one answer to that question; the condition of our inner cities another.

Yours truly,
PETER HEYWORTH,
32 Bryanston Square, W1.

Hours not theirs

From Mr Basil Boothroyd
Sir, I have just been told by British Telecom's speaking clock that at the third stroke the time "from Accusist" will be 6.55 precisely. This seems to be new and awful and I don't want to know that everything from cricket to symphony concerts is now a commercial bandwagon, though I see that we're stuck with it if we want any sport or music. But time belongs to us all.

It is not for watchmakers to cry their wares at us six times a minute day and night. It doesn't

come from anybody. Some say there's no such thing. Time, as we call it, stands still, and we people just whizz past. Let Accusist mind their own business. Though I suppose they're doing that, damn their self-promoting mainsprings, quartz and chips. And damn British Telecom too, while I'm at it.

Yours sincerely,
BASIL BOOTHROYD,
Peelers,
Church Street,
Cuckfield,
Sussex,
April 4.

Bristol intolerance

From Dr Peter W. Thomas
Sir, As you observe in your Wapping leaflet to our desks vehemently reprimands the Secretary of State for Education as a man who in his thinking about tenure "ignores the question of academic freedom".

Effrontery, in the circumstances, is the only word for that line of argument. Nor is it very bright, just when events at Bristol reveal at a stroke that tenure is itself no guarantee of academic freedom of speech. All the tenure in the world will be worthless if academics, of all people, permit "agit-prop" to become the order of the day.

Happily there is still, as you imply, an abundance of good old-fashioned academic tolerance and disinterestedness in our universities — witness the failure of the recent strike ballot to command more than 38 per cent support among AUT members. That, naturally, was interpreted as a mandate for "action" — another reminder that it is simply no longer safe to assume that the AUT speaks in good faith for the majority of its members, let alone the profession as a whole. That silence which disturbed you has, I conclude, spoken volumes.

Yours faithfully,
PETER W. THOMAS,
University College, Cardiff,
Department of English,
PO Box 78,
Cardiff,
South Glamorgan,
March 28.

UK concern on ADR tax effects

From the Chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries and others
Sir, Over the past three weeks since the Budget, you have published a number of relevant reports on the concern felt in the City and by industry at the Chancellor's intention to levy a tax of 5 per cent on the creation of new American depositary receipts (ADRs) and similar securities.

We write now, as Parliament reassembles, to confirm the validity of your reporting, certainly as far as our own companies are concerned; indeed we have ample evidence that our concerns and objects are shared by numerous other major British industrial companies and by the financial communities on both sides of the Atlantic and elsewhere.

It now appears that the tax is being levied not to raise revenue (there is general agreement that payments will be negligible) but with the aim of bringing "lost" stock exchange business back to London by ensuring that all trade in British equities takes place here. If this is true then the legislation is essentially nationalist and protectionist, the very reverse of the policy needed if London is to prosper as a major financial centre, post "big bang".

Without detracting from the importance of this argument against the Chancellor's proposal, we summarise below a number of our personal concerns at the way in which the tax is likely to impact on British industry.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 9 1906

Africa in the 18th and early 20th centuries was a field for exploitation by the European powers. Morocco had come under the influence of France, a situation accepted by Britain in return for France's non-intervention in Egypt. A third party, Germany, felt that it should have an interest in Morocco and arranged for a conference to be held to discuss this country's government and economy. It opened in January, 1906 and closed with France's "special position" being recognised. Germany's hopes of any gains came to naught. Our Special Correspondent was Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace.

CLOSE OF THE MOROCCO CONFERENCE

AGREEMENT SIGNED.
(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)
ALGERIAS, APRIL 7.

At last the interminable Conference is at an end, and sincere mutual congratulation is now the order of the day. At 11 o'clock this morning the delegates met as usual in the ball hall of the municipal buildings, and for the first time a few favoured outsiders, including the Governor of Gibraltar, had the honour of being present. At a long table covered with red cloth instead of the diplomatic green sat 25 representatives of 13 Powers, including four Moors clad in spotless white garments and headed by the venerable Mahomed el Turus, who, though a Moroccan official and comparatively poor, enjoys a well-earned reputation for unimpeachable honesty...

After a few introductory remarks by the president and other customary formalities the Acte General embodying the results of the Conference was read by one of the Spanish secretaries. It is a long printed document covering 22 folio pages, and is divided into seven chapters, which contain, not a scheme of general reforms for the decrepit Moroccan Empire, as is often erroneously supposed, but merely some modest proposals for the development of European commerce at eight open seaports. My apprehension as to its containing typographical errors prove to be not unfounded. One of these misprints a fine for smuggling from 2,000 pesetas (£57) to 5,000 pesetas (£142) was considered so serious that an eratum had to be inserted in manuscript at the end of the document, the trivial mistakes in spelling being left uncorrected. Traces of haste are likewise visible in style, and altogether it is not a document of which diplomats of the old school would be proud. The only thing which reminds one of the old school are the traditional consecrated formulas such as the opening "Au nom de Dieu tout puissant." For its defects I hasten to add that the secretaries are not to blame. The cause, as already explained in previous telegrams, is to be sought in the irrefragable impatience of the delegates to escape from their Moorish captivity and spend at least a portion of Holy Week in the bosom of their families...

Thus ended the memorable Conference, and notwithstanding many hours of impatience and anxiety, it seems, on the whole, to have left agreeable impressions, for at the moment of departure every one present appeared anxious to secure a tangible little souvenir of it by appropriating, with the President's gracious permission, a penholder, blotter, calendar or some such thing of trivial value which had been used during the deliberations. What was considered the first prize was an ordinary paper calendar bearing the date Saturday, the 7th of April, 1906, on which all the delegates kindly inscribed their signatures...

Now a very few words regarding the results of the Conference. In my telegram of April 1, at the moment when an agreement on the main points had been attained, I transmitted the first impressions of the delegates and promised to transmit in a few days their more matured views when the results had been carefully examined and probed. I am now in a position to state that between first impressions and matured views there is very little difference. My apprehensions that the unconcealed joy of the delegates at the prospect of a speedy release from their long Moorish captivity might have made them a little too optimistic have happily not been realized. They still think that, considering all the circumstances of the case, no one has much reason to complain...

So far, therefore, as the Moroccan question in the narrower sense is concerned the Conference has been a decided success, though we cannot feel feeling that the machinery employed to attain the object in view has been somewhat out of proportion to the requirements of the situation. In diplomacy, as in ordinary life, the employment of a steam-hammer for cracking a walnut implies a lamentable waste of energy.

If the whole truth must be told, his Serenities Majesty has been unceremoniously used as a pawn on the European chessboard. This has been latterly more and more clearly recognized here...

Return of Eros

From Mr L. M. Cornwall
Sir, Surely Eros would not position himself firmly on the ground, let alone lightly on a pedestal, to aim his arrow. The god of love would be in free fall, his limbs not subject to such restraints, and it seems to me that the statue represents this conception admirably.

Yours truly,
L. M. CORNWALL,
4 High Street,
Dunblane,
Perthshire,
April 4.

THE ARTS

Television Wicked waste

Last year in Britain three thousand million oranges were destroyed. We also got rid of one thousand tons of cauliflower. And over-produced wheat by seven million tons. In O'Donnell Investigates the Food Business (BBC2) these figures were delivered in tones of appropriate outrage.

Riccardo Muti (right), in London for three Philharmonia concerts, talks to John Higgins about his first season as La Scala's music director and the theatre's new recording contract with EMI

Homecoming for a new era

On December 7, the immovable opening date of the Scala season. Riccardo Muti conducts his first opera as music director of the Milan house. The work is Nabucco, and it has been very carefully chosen.

this represents a major commitment by EMI and ENI over the next few years. But Muti also sees it as a means of re-establishing the past. "I want to get back to the days when Karajan, Serafin, De Sabata and others were making great recordings with La Scala. Also in the theatre I want to create a team around me of young musicians in the way that Toscanini had at his side Votto, Gui and - yes, again - Serafini."

Macbeth, the female who is a combination of bene e male." Dimitrova is the Abigail and Bruson sings the title role. The producer is Roberto di Simone, who like Muti was born in Naples. Coincidence? Muti chortles: "Roberto is so Neapolitan that by comparison I might have been born in Scandinavia."

were out of the ordinary or perhaps only just coming back into fashion. Now, twenty years later, or almost, at the Scala I think there is a chance to establish the true Verdi style just as there is now a new Rossini style, to move the orchestra a step forward, to create a cadre of young Italian singers."

Dr Michael O'Donnell called these figures obscene and criminal, which indeed they are. However, he was not concerned that this abundance would exist while half the rest of the world starves, but that fatal shortcomings of the British diet are forced as a result of the subsidies for agriculture.



Joe Melia: marvellously embodying the image of a Zionist trapped on the wrong side

"No, what I like about Nabucco is its fire - it's a storm, it's a tempest. Ernani is more refined, the characters are more deeply analyzed, with the exception of Abigail, the first great soprano role that Verdi created. There is the prototype of Lady

One oddity of the piece, which spans 50 years in the lives of the wandering Levines, is that it nowhere acknowledges the existence of the state of Israel. The play opens and ends with a Passover dinner, and in 1980 as in 1930 it presents the Jews as a homeless people perpetually journeying towards a destination where their slavery will end.

Even without this strange omission, the play seems curiously detached from the outside world which allegedly is giving the characters such a hard time. You have to consult the programme to discover where and when events are taking place - a necessary procedure as it opens in Rhodes in the 1930s then zips back 20 years to Lithuania before winding up in Mugabe's Zimbabwe. Apart from the appearance of two Blacks, it might all be happening in the same country.

The main aim of the piece is to examine three strands of Jewish tradition through the story of one family. Chronologically, it begins with their flight to Africa. There are four of them - two sisters and their husbands - but only three passes. The devout Isaac and his wife and sister Lily make their escape, leaving Lily's communist-leader husband behind.

three hours and yields some of the most forced and unnatural acting I can recall at this address. Joe Melia lights the patriarchal Isaac with some nifty dancing and high-speed card-playing, and marvelously embodies the humiliated image of a Zionist trapped on the wrong side. Nicholas Woodeson and Gillian Barge play with a rage and energy which at least do full justice to the play's argument.

Irving Wardle

Relatively Speaking Greenwich

Two sets, four scenes, four unimpeachably middle-class characters, a plot which runs on low-octane embarrassment; you know where you are with Alan Ayckbourn. Relatively Speaking, his first major West End success, here enjoys its first major revival. Alan Strachan's worthy production stays in period (summer 1965), which gives the eye an unexpected shock of recognition in the first-scene set of a London bed-sit. It all looks so mid-1980s, so taste-freak revivalist.

These intimations of modernity are handsomely crushed by the expositional dialogue between the two young lovers, Greg and Ginny - of an age, though years apart in experience - whose month-old relationship is overshadowed by Ginny's former lover,

with Fiona Chadwick the best and Maria Almeida especially promising. But almost nobody wears André Levasseur's ornate costumes with chic surety in their ornamentation and colour should appeal to today's young dancers?

John Percival

Concerts RPO/Dorati Festival Hall

One theory about Anni-Dorati's career on the podium is that, as he steps into his ninth decade, his public persona, and therefore his interpretation of Beethoven, is becoming noticeably mellower. Another says that he has always had the capacity for genial music-making, but that his martinet-like rehearsal style in mid-life created an abrasive atmosphere which led to performances that were the opposite of relaxed.

This ebullient performance of Beethoven's Fourth Symphony supported such a hypothesis. The hard graft was plain for all to hear: an excellently controlled slow introduction bursting like a dam into the allegro; similarly magisterial supervision of the tricky exposed entries heralding the recapitulation; the vivacitas in the finale made to enunciate every semiquaver; the careful balancing of languidly beautiful woodwind solos in the Adagio against the turbulent accompaniments.

Yet beyond and above this was a huge, robust joviality. It was most obvious in the bustling first movement and in the symphony's final bars: the sudden mock seriousness solemnly undertaken, and then the joke's punchline arriving in a massive, throaty downward roar from cellos and basses. But it was prevalent in less overt forms everywhere.

In the Piano Concerto No 5, too, there was a similar exuberance, though here it was offset winningly by Radu Lupu's command of a multitude of subtly differentiated keyboard colours. The epic proportions of the "Emperor" were played down, yet there was plenty of drama about, especially at the slow movement's close. Conductor and soloist conspired to lull the senses with barely audible delights, so that Lupu's sudden sweep into a finale that danced like a Viennese waltz even managed to restore the surprise element to this most famous of transitions.

Richard Morrison

Rozario/Troop Purcell Room

Memories of Patricia Rozario's recent Rodrigo Festival recital were revived on Monday night, as she turned again to three songs by the Spanish composer and two encores from his Quatro madrigales. It was a most pleasant sensation of déjà vu. For one of the most distinctive delights of Rozario's singing is the way in which she plays on the gently shifting timbres of her soprano as on a wind instrument; and the elision of Latin languages in general and Rodrigo's music in particular glory in such treatment. Once

again, virtually unaccompanied, there was her strangely distanced "Canto de la esposa", again her frolicsome "Esta nina". There was Falla, too, and all the sad irony caught within the caprice of the "Seguidilla murciana" as well as the most soulful, penetrating "Al-ce's of pain in "Polo".

This recital focused, too, on Rozario's gracious performing presence: the poise of the slight, sari-clad figure is extended in the simple care she takes in moulding verbal inflection and melody, so telling in her five Ivor Gurney Elizabethan Songs. In Mabler, she held lightly in the palm of her hand the charm, sentiment and naive evocation of two of the Knaben Wunderhorn songs, hearing in her imagination, it seemed, the orchestral voices behind the rather less finely observed piano accompanying of her husband, Mark Troop.

The evening was not without its moments of anxiety. For some time now it has been worrying to watch the weakening of the music at the top of the voice, as if through lack of strong exercise, and with it the inevitable hints of unease in integration. Her Mozart, however, Schubert in particular, however musically sung, suffered from shaky support: not nerves alone, I think.

Hilary Finch

Lloyds Bank Base Rate. Lloyds Bank Plc has reduced its Base Rate from 11.5 per cent to 11 per cent p.a. with effect from Tuesday, 8 April 1986.

ENO Tonight 7.30 and continuing THE MERRY WIDOW Lehár's sparkling operetta

Royal Opera House The Royal Opera Rossini's Il barbiere di Siviglia



Collier with gentle authority in the main duet and matching her grave seriousness of manner in his brief solo. Bruce Sansom's light, fluent style looked at home in the first of the solos, and Phillip Broomhead brought a live athleticism to the last solo, even though not matching Ashley Page's fierceness as the jackal-headed deity.

I find that the ballet continues to reveal further wealth of detail, both in Bintlief's concept and staging and in Peter McGowan's richly-textured score. With a ballet as familiar as Birthday Offering (30 years in the repertoire but only 56 performances at Covent Garden - I suppose I must have seen most of them), one has less expectation of new insights, yet they can come serendipitously.

An example at this performance was Ravenna Tucker's taking over the sixth solo: one of the company's smaller dancers in a role made for one of the tallest (Beryl Grey), yet

so assured in technique, so smoothly exact in the many turning steps, that it looked exactly right.

Perhaps similarly courageous casting might benefit other solos, which at present vary too much for comfort in their standard of execution.

Albert Finney Kevin Anderson Jeff Fahey

Orphans BY LYLE KESSLER DIRECTED BY GARY SINISE "You must see Orphans" S. Times

APOLLO SHAFESBURY AVE THEATRE LONDON W1 TEL: 437 2663, 434 3598

سكزامن الاصل

No evidence to proceed with JMB charges

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Police officers investigating the affairs of Johnson Matthey Bankers and its collapse announced yesterday that the Director of Public Prosecutions has decided that there was no evidence to justify charges on four allegations made by Mr Brian Sedgmore, the Labour MP for Hackney South, on the JMB affair.

The announcement came from the City of London police, whose fraud squad officers began an investigation of JMB last summer. They announced late last year that they had found evidence of fraud involving JMB.

The statement yesterday refers to allegations made by Mr Sedgmore involving Mr Mahmood Sipra and Mr Michael Hopker, chairman of Sumrie Clothes.

The statement said that the police had made a report to the DPP following allegations made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by Mr Sedgmore.

The first said that JMB and the Bank of England agreed to release a charge on 1 Chester Terrace, Regents Park, after payment by Mr Sipra of £65,000 when the value of the property would have justified payments of a higher sum.

The second allegation suggested that Bank of England officials acted with impropriety before and after their takeover of JMB in relation to the movement of funds on the accounts of Mr Sipra.

The third allegation suggested there were attempts by JMB and the Bank of England to show JMB as a secured creditor of Ardmore Film Studios and thereby obtain fraudulent preference in the liquidation of the company.

The fourth allegation claimed that a £1 Bank of England note was illegally photographed by Mr Hopker in support of an alleged option agreement to buy Ravensbury Investments.

Motion attacks agents at Lloyd's on funds

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

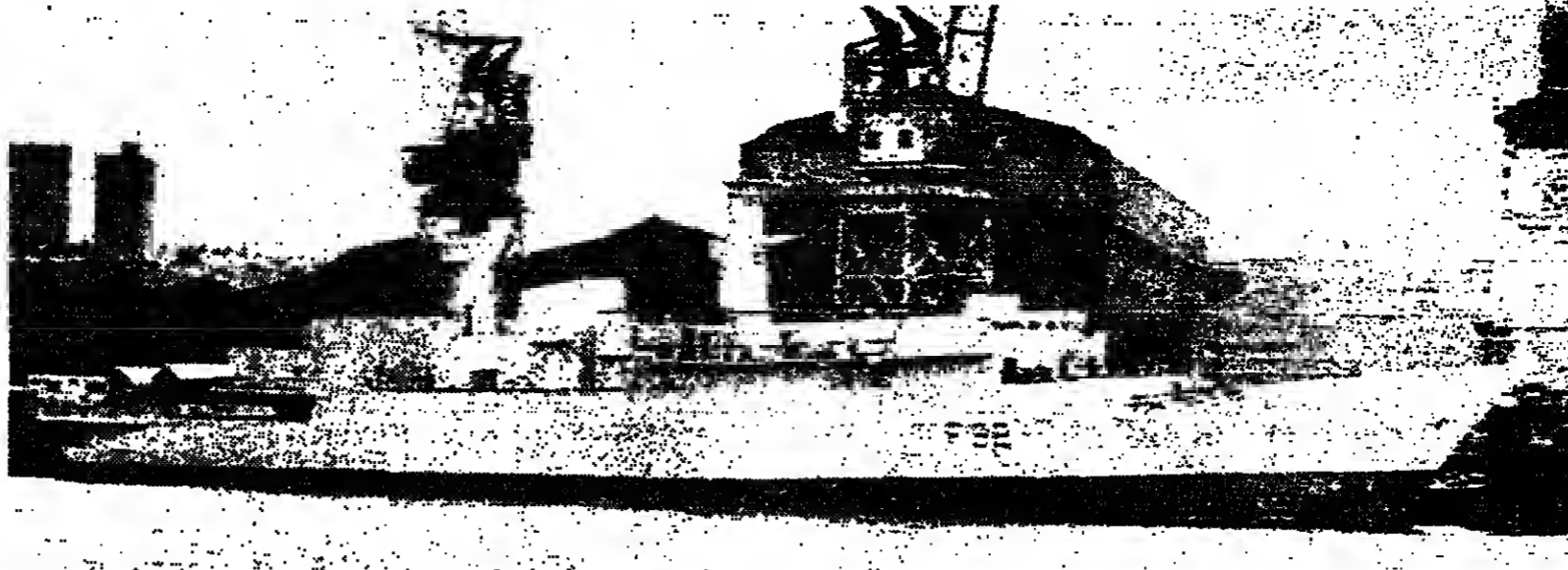
The leading directors of one of the most prominent groups of Lloyd's insurance syndicates, Messrs Bellow, Parry and Raven, were last night accused in a parliamentary motion of diverting funds from syndicate names or members into a trust fund set up for their children.

Mr Brian Sedgmore, the Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, claimed in a Commons motion last night that the Lloyd's authorities should charge the directors of BPR "with a breach of fiduciary duty, notwithstanding the declaration of Arthur Gratant-Bellow that if Lloyd's brings down Bellow, Parry and Raven, he will bring down Lloyd's."

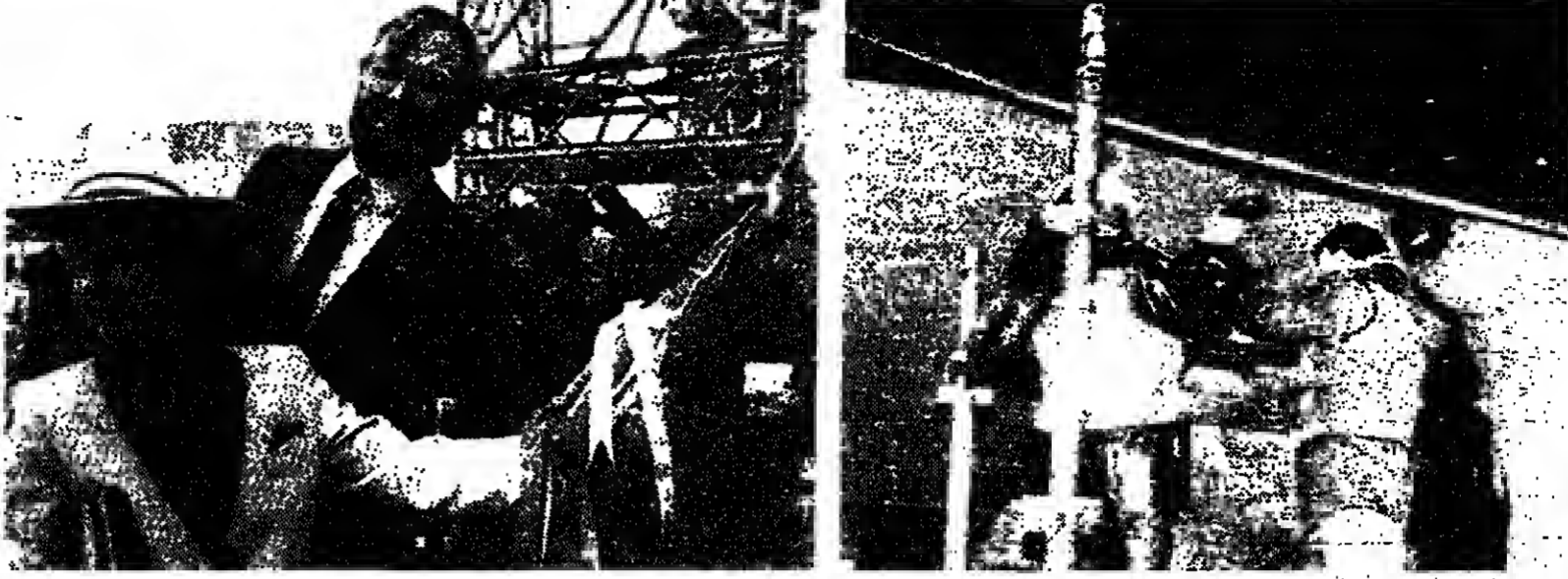
In another motion Mr Sedgmore says that it was appalling "that Lloyd's, having found the directors of Brooks and Dooley guilty of a breach of fiduciary duty to their names, has not charged Messrs Bellow, Parry and Raven with aiding and abetting them in channeling funds to a Bermuda company, Fidentia, to the detriment of those names."

The motion on BPR claims "that solicitors James Pearman and Richard Pearson of Conyers, Dill and Pearson were and are prime movers in both the Brooks and Dooley case, where Lloyd's found them guilty and imposed absurdly low sentences for not cooperating in their enquiries and in the Bellow Parry and Raven case."

It alleged that in the BPR case profits "from monies which were invested in off-shore reinsurance in Bermuda which should have gone to the children of the Bellow, Parry and Raven families."



After the early-morning launch: the frigate Coventry moored on the River Tyne yesterday.



Lady Stanford naming the frigate with Mr Marsh after management had removed timbers beneath the ship (right).

Frigate launched in secret to foil strike

Continued from page 1

taken at 9pm on Monday although senior yard management had been on details throughout the day.

The senior Admiralty guests invited to the ceremony, Admiral Sir Peter Stanford, Command in Chief Naval Home Command, his wife Lady Stanford, the ship sponsor, and Vice Admiral Sir Derek Reffell, Controller of the Navy, were told of the change of plan at a dinner given by Swan Hunter management a local hotel.

They were asked if they wanted to attend as agreed. At

another hotel the 100 members of management had been assembled and were briefed on the launch.

At 3.45am, in an otherwise deserted shipyard, Lady Stanford performed the ceremony, pulling a lever which sent a bottle of champagne crashing against the bows of the frigate.

"It was very dark, very wet, very cold and very windy but also very exciting. I was not told I had to be there. I was kindly asked if I would like to be there. I said yes not only as the sponsor but on behalf of the next of kin. It was a very moving moment," she said.

Lady Stanford and the other

guests were equipped with oilskins, boots and large umbrellas. The official naming ceremony for the frigate took place later yesterday and was attended by relatives of the 19 men who died when the previous Coventry was sunk.

The stoppage by the 2,000 workers at the yard was in defiance of national union instructions. They had been told to work normally to allow talks with the company tomorrow.

The men had intended to return to work yesterday but were suspended by the company. They have rejected offers of rises for skilled men from

£135 per week to £153 per week rising to £160 next year.

Several hundred workers demonstrated at the yard gates yesterday. They are to meet on Friday.

Mr Paul Stockdale, Secretary of the local Co-ordination of Ship Building and Engineering Unions said: "This management expects us to be the worse paid warship yard in the country and we are not going to apologize for any action we have taken."

"We are very disappointed that the management carried work traditionally done by manual workers. Industrial

relations are going to get worse, feelings will harden. I just hope someone can see common sense soon."

The new Coventry, weighing 4,100 tons, will be armed with Exocets and Sea Wolf missiles and carry two Lynx helicopters. It has a complement of 300 officers and men.

The anti-submarine frigate will be fitted out at Swan Hunter's Neptune shipyard alongside her sister ship, HMS Sheffield, to be ready to handover to the Royal Navy early in 1987.

Leading article, page 17

Six die as helicopter crashes into hill

Continued from page 1

when low cloud, mist and persistent drizzle made visibility poor.

After the crash shocked villagers rushed across a muddy field, but the crewed helicopter was already burning fiercely and it was believed that all on board had died instantly. Two bodies were thrown from the wreckage, but others were buried beyond recognition.

Mr Duncan Jack, of Brakelands Farm, Swackliffe, who owns the land on which the helicopter crashed, rushed to the scene when he heard the explosion.

Mr Jack, who flies his own helicopter, said: "I think the pilot was trying to clear the village. I think he was a bloody brave boy."

"I think he knew that he was in trouble and tried to get over the village to a field. If he had tried to land in the village, God knows how many people could have been killed if it had gone wrong."

"I think he was trying to get to a field, but he dropped like a brick."

Mr Hugh Smith, a plumber who lives in the village, was working on the roof of the Swackliffe Park School when the accident happened.

He said: "It was an awful experience that will be with me to the day I die. I heard the sound of the helicopter coming low over the roofs of the houses in the village. Suddenly the engine started to splutter and I heard it start to fall."

"The engine came back to life for a few seconds and then cut out again and it crashed in the field. I ran as fast as my legs would carry me, but the helicopter was in a crumpled heap and on fire. I managed to get close to it and I could see three men, a girl and another woman."

"Two of the men had been thrown into the field but they were already dead. The last was terrible and I could smell bodies burning. It was appalling. There was no way I could get any of them out, I could see the young girl inside, but I just had to watch it burn. It was hopeless."

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Princess Anne attends the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's 50th Birthday Concert for Maestro Antal Dorati at the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1, 7.

The Duchess of Kent visits the Joint Air Force Reconnaissance and Intelligence Centre, RAF Brampton, Cambridgeshire, 11; later, as Patron, attends a Gala Evening in aid of the Stars Organisation for Spastics and the National Society for Cancer Relief at the Theatre Royal, WC2, 7.30.

Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Institute of the Motor Industry, visits Aston Martin Lagonda Ltd, Newport Pagnell, 10; and later attends a dinner on the Board of Grand Stewards at Merchant Taylors Hall, EC2, 7.15.

New exhibitions

Falls the Shadow: Recent British and European Art, the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, SE1; Mon to Wed 10 to 8, Thurs to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 12 to 6 (ends June 15).

Works by Mary Fedden: New Graffiti Gallery, 49 Church Rd, Barnes, SW13; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, (ends May 31).

New Faces at the Warwick: works by Joanna Stockham, Daniel Maif, Iona Campbell-Gray, Gerard Morris, John Meadows, John G Evans, Ben Hartley and Sunil Patel; Warwick Arts Trust, 33 Warwick Sq, SW1; Wed to Sun 10 to 6 (closed Mon, Tues and May 3, 4 and 5) (ends May 11).

Music
15th Century Music by Sweet Harmons, Home, House, 30 Portman Sq, W1, 7.30.

Concert by the Forest Choir.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, 7.45

Harpichord recital by Naomi Davidson: Purcell Room, South Bank, 7.30.

Concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Brighton Festival Chorus, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, 7.30.

Recital by the Vanessa Latche Trio, Royal Festival Hall Foyer, South Bank, 12.30.

Concert by the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1, 7.30.

Recital by Nicholas Clapton (piano) and Leta Henderson (piano), the Purcell Room, South Bank, 7.30.

Concert by Peter Frank and Tamás Vásáry (piano), Barbican Hall, EC2, 1.

Concert by the Orchestra of St John's Smith Square Orchestra, St John's, Smith Square, SW1, 7.30.

Books - hardback

The Deputy Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week.

Semuel Beckett: The Complete Dramatic Works (Penguin, £12.50).

A Modern View: The Writings of Indian Cricket by Mohi Bose (Allen & Unwin, £11.95).

Longman Spelling Dictionary (Longman, £4.95).

The Short Guide to British Archaeology by Jocasta Hawkes (Michael Joseph, £14.95).

Fool Play, Drug Abuse in Sports by Tom Donohoe & Neil Johnson (Blackwell, £12.50).

The History of the Countryside by Oliver Rackham (Dent, £18.95).

The Diary of Tynesley by St Sagan (Faber, £14.50).

The Rise and Fall of the British Navy by Richard Lingen (Blackwell, £10.95).

The Oxford Book of Legal Anecdotes edited by Michael Colton (OUP, £12.50).

A Handbook for the Handyman's Guide to DIY Survival, by Pamela Donald (Wodehead & Nicolson, £5.95).

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending March 30:

- 1 Eastenders (Tue/Sun) 21.40m
- 2 Eastenders (Thu/Sun) 20.70m
- 3 The 1996 Golden Egg Awards 16.90m
- 4 Crimewatch UK 14.60m
- 5 Dear John 13.85m
- 6 Spanglish (Fri) 13.55m
- 7 Ait Wadwan (Sat) 13.40m
- 8 Daisies 12.55m
- 9 Antiques Roadshow 12.15m
- 10 City Footie and Horse 12.00m

Weather forecast

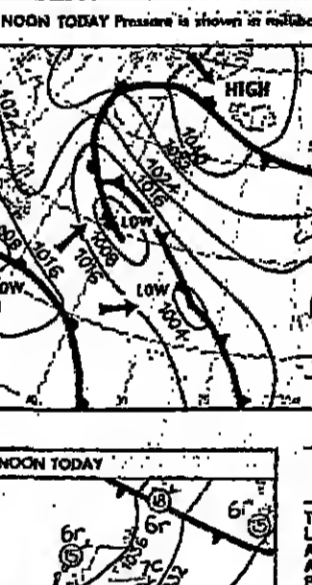
The rather cold north-easterly airflow will continue to affect the country.

6am to midnight
London, SE, central S, SW England, East Angles, E Midlands: Cloudy with rain or drizzle and snow on hills; wind N to NE, moderate or fresh; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Wales, central N England, W Midlands, S, N Wales: Cloudy with light rain or drizzle and snow on hills; but slowly becoming clear and brighter from N, wind N to NE, moderate or fresh; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Wales, central N England, W Midlands, S, N Wales: Cloudy with light rain or drizzle and snow on hills; but slowly becoming clear and brighter from N, wind N to NE, moderate or fresh; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Wales, central N England, W Midlands, S, N Wales: Cloudy with light rain or drizzle and snow on hills; but slowly becoming clear and brighter from N, wind N to NE, moderate or fresh; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,015

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 27. The grid is partially filled with letters, and some cells are shaded black.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Destructive people train to break up exhibition (13).
 - 2 Such braggadocio made Livy groan (4).
 - 3 Rejected work includes spicy picture (5).
 - 4 Lair for animal about to leave cage in Belgium (5).
 - 5 Fine article about king, possibly written by Boito (4).
 - 6 In the same book Bashan's king returned to the desert (4).
 - 7 Evergreen only found in a Latin country (7).
 - 8 Records of actors' appearances (7).
 - 9 Railway supporter comes by tube (7).
 - 10 Revolutionary device for receiving cables at sea (7).
 - 11 Source of heat acceptable in church (4).
 - 12 Blue feathers (4).
 - 13 Poet's claim to be at all times a Muslim ruler (5).
 - 14 Sound attempt - total three (5).
 - 15 Means of evasion employed by archers (4).
 - 16 Underworld aspect of the Mary Celeste crew (13).
- DOWN**
- 1 Papal appointee literary hacks recommend? (6,8).
 - 2 Hawthorn blossom's pronounced suitable for animal food (5).
 - 3 Omitting to genuflect, perhaps, before start of Litany? (10).
 - 4 A month in class upset hard workers (7).
 - 5 A US city sage appears, no matter how (7).
 - 6 Soldiers in denim picking off foes (4).
 - 7 Student goes into assembly - one starting a new term (9).
 - 8 Castaway spotted birds on erratic course (8,6).
 - 9 Progress more, say, as one in loco parentis (10).
 - 10 Sinister young woman's kidnapped slave (9).
 - 11 First to hold sway, before she fell? (7).
 - 12 Excuse prisoner already committed? (7).
 - 13 The Spanish boy in "The Lady of the Lake"? (5).
 - 14 Inequalities not even Socrates initially recognized (4).
 - 15 Solution to Puzzle No 17,014.

Talks, lectures and films

Flora and Fauna Preservation Society talk by Ton Langton, Crouch Hill Recreation Society, Hillrise Rd, N19 7.30.

Painting the Warmth of the Sun: St Ives Painters, 10.30: British Pop in the 1960s: David Hockney and R B Kitaj; The Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1, 6.

Chinese jade by Gillian Darby, 11.30: The Great Houses of Virginia by Sarah Bowles; Victoria & Albert Museum, SW7, 1.15.

Techniques of drawing by Colin Wiggins, The National Gallery, Trafalgar Sq, WC2, 1: 1986 - The UN Year of Peace by Myriell Davies, Charting Cross Hotel, Strand, WC2, 6.30.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Airports Bill, report stage.

Lords (2.30): Debates on need for cooperation between Government and manufacturing industry and on the media and industrial system Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms Bill, report stage.

Anniversaries

Births: Isambard Kingdom Brunel, civil and mechanical engineer, Portsmouth, 1806.

Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1821; Léon Blum, Premier of France 1936-37, Paris, 1872; Paul Robeson, Princeton, New Jersey, 1898; Hugh Gaithe, leader of the Labour Party, 1955-63, London, 1906.

Deaths: Edward IV, reigned 1461-70, 1471-83, London, 1483; Francisco Rabalera, writer, Paris, 1553; Francis Bacon, Viscount St Albans, Lord Chancellor, London, 1626; Dante Gabriel Rossetti, painter poet and a founder of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, Birmington-on-Sea, Kent, 1882.

Snow reports

Depth (cm)	U	P	W	W	W
AUSTRIA	30	340	fair	heavy	poor
FRANCE	150	220	good	varied	fair
La Plagne	150	220	good	varied	fair
SWITZERLAND	250	220	good	varied	fair

High Tides

Station	AM	PM	AM	PM
London Bridge	2:57	7:0	2:22	7:3
Aberdeen	2:24	4:0	2:26	4:1
Aberdeenmouth	2:24	3:1	2:26	4:1
Belfast	3:24	5:2	3:26	5:3
Cardiff	2:09	12:1	2:26	4:2
Doverport	7:01	5:1	7:2	5:3
Exmouth	7:07	5:1	7:2	5:3
Falmouth	6:31	5:2	6:52	5:2
Glasgow	1:54	4:3	2:0	4:9
Grimsby	1:28	4:3	1:50	4:9
Hull	11:23	5:11	11:44	5:3
Leamington	7:07	5:1	7:2	5:3
Loughsborough	3:43	5:4	3:51	5:5
Liverpool	12:11	8:0	12:22	8:2
London	2:57	7:0	2:22	7:3
Manchester	1:00	4:6	1:25	4:8
Medford Haven	6:21	4:0	6:28	4:8
Newport	6:50	4:0	7:04	4:8
Oban	3:11	5:3	3:21	5:5
Portsmouth	12:23	4:8	12:23	4:8
Southampton	12:10	6:2	12:20	4:4
Swansea	7:34	5:4	7:48	5:8
Wexford	12:30	4:0	12:30	4:1

Lighting-up time

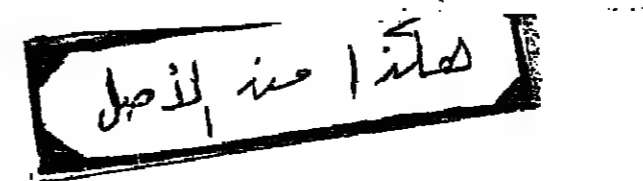
Location	Start	End
London	8.17 pm to 5.47 am	8.26 pm to 5.56 am
Bristol	8.17 pm to 5.47 am	8.26 pm to 5.56 am
Cardiff	8.17 pm to 5.47 am	8.26 pm to 5.56 am
Exmouth	8.17 pm to 5.47 am	8.26 pm to 5.56 am
London	8.17 pm to 5.47 am	8.26 pm to 5.56 am

The pound

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.17	2.03
Austria S	13.26	12.5
Belgium F	73.89	70.0
Canada C	2.12	2.02
Denmark D	13.25	12.5
Finland Mk	6.35	7.58
France F	11.49	10.85
Germany D	1.93	1.83
Greece Dr	236	216
Hong Kong S	11.80	11.30
Italy L	1.165	1.115
Japan Y	245.5	235
Norway Kr	11.16	10.63
Sweden Kr	11.30	10.77
Switzerland F	4.50	4.30
Spain Ptas	226.50	214.50
USA \$	1.53	1.47
West Germany M	3.33	3.23
Yugoslavia Dn	11.30	10.77

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to the Editor, The Times, PO Box 7, Virginia Street, London ECV 3JX.



FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1388.1 (-12.8) FT-SE 100 1675.7 (-12.8) USM (Datastream) 119.84 (+0.49) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4730 (+0.0205) W German mark 3.4424 (-0.0378) Trade-weighted 76.7 (same)

G5 'ready to agree cut in world interest rates'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Finance ministers of the Group of Five nations prepared to meet in a closely-guarded session yesterday as speculation grew in financial markets that they would agree to another coordinated cut in world interest rates.

Privately, officials noted that even though Japan left the door open to further interest rate cuts to the economic package it unveiled yesterday, it did not take the step and has urged the United States to prevent additional sharp reductions in the dollar against the yen.

Meanwhile, in his outgoing report to the twice-yearly joint meeting of the bank and the International Monetary Fund, Mr A W Tom Clausen, the president of the World Bank, planned to recommend sharply higher lending levels rising to \$21.5 billion annually to generate more growth in depressed Third World economies.

Base rates cut to 11%

The big banks yesterday cut their base lending rates by half a percentage point. The financing, so soon after the drop in money market rates on Monday, took many by surprise.

The United States, which has balked in the past at proposals for a capital increase, has promised to support one but not until after the mid-term elections in Congress and possibly not at this high level, officials said.

Guinness 'favoured'

More than 3,200 small shareholders in Distillers out of 7,256 contacted in a survey by Kleinwort Benson, the whisky group's merchant bank, are backing the £2.8 billion bid by Guinness.

Kwik rise

Kwik-Fit (Tyres & Exhausts) Holdings lifted profits from £4.23 million to £6.63 million in the year to February 28. Turnover rose from £61.2 million to £83.8 million and the final dividend is up from 0.94p to 1.1p.

Gains at Next

Next has announced turnover for the six months to March 31, 1986, up 20 per cent to £85.5 million. Pretax profit was £13.6 million, compared with £9.6 million last year.

Trust launch

Laing & Cruickshank is bringing River and Mercantile General Capital and Income Trust 1999 to the market via an offer for sale of 35 million preferred shares and 14 million ordinary shares.

Ramada's third

Ramada, the world's third largest hotel chain, is planning its third English property with the £9 million conversion of a Manchester office block into a 205-bedroom hotel.

Special payout

West's Group International has declared a special interim dividend of 2.5p to be paid on April 24, after the takeover offer for West by Tilbury Group becomes unconditional.

Newman fall

Newman Industries has declared a final dividend of 0.5p with pretax profits down from £5.1 million in 1984 to £3.1 million last year.

Expamet deal

Expamet International has paid £1.16 million in cash for Hoseworth, the Aylesbury-based manufacturer of fire alarm and security systems.

£50m issue

Enterprise Oil is to issue £50 million of 10 per cent bonds due in 1993 at par through an international syndicate managed by J Henry Schroder Wagg.

Standard board united against Lloyds offer

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Standard Chartered Bank yesterday issued an uncompromising rejection of the bid proposals made by Lloyds Bank last week and said that it would not be looking for an alternative bidder.

Mr David Horne, a director of Lloyds Merchant Bank, said: "We are surprised and disappointed by Standard's attitude but we are not going away just because they do not like our approach."

Whitehall attacked by Lonrho

By Richard Lander

Lonrho, the international trading company headed by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, yesterday launched a bitter attack against the Government and Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, over the House of Fraser affair.

Diamond prices rise 7.5%

By Michael Priest

A steady firming of the diamond market in recent months was declared official yesterday when the Central Selling Organisation, the marketing arm of the South African mining concern De Beers, announced an average increase of 7.5 per cent in the price of rough gem stones.

Granada forecasts 37% profits rise

By Cliff Feltham

Granada, the television and leisure group, yesterday forecast a "profit breakthrough" this year as it continued to pour scorn on the Rank Organisation's frustrated £750 million takeover bid.

New setback for TSB

By Our City Staff

The date for floating the Trustee Savings Bank on the stock market was again thrown into doubt yesterday.

Salomon Brothers breaks the UK mortgage mould

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Salomon Brothers, the American securities house, yesterday announced an innovation in the British mortgage market which will increase the already intense competition to lend to homebuyers.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet A ha'p'orth that will decide Imps' future

The moment of decision for Imperial shareholders has arrived with United Biscuits' offer closing on Friday.

gaining an annual £75 million to £80 million in integration benefits, which would far outweigh dilution of £47 million.

The battle continues to rage about whose offer is highest and by how many pence, with last-minute diversions by Imps over what is the real value of Hanson Trust convertible serving only to obscure the real issues.

Promise falls short After the vision of the Maekawa Report on the Japanese economy, published on Monday, came the reality in Prime Minister Nakasone's economic package yesterday.

The arguments are all well rehearsed. They boil down to the desire of UB's Sir Hector Laing to create a global food group to compete with the American majors, using tobacco cash-flow to finance it.

There is a personal sector tax cut, said to be worth 1,000 billion yen (£3.7 billion), in the form of letting the Japanese consumer benefit from lower world oil prices and the yen's rise.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns for Stock Markets, Gold, Main Price Changes, and Interest Rates. Includes data for London and Cont., New York, and various interest rates.

Advertisement for TAP's daily Heathrow-Lisbon services. Features the text 'THE BEST CHOICE OF FLIGHTS FROM HEATHROW TO LISBON' and an image of a TAP airplane.

TO THE DISTILLERS SHAREHOLDERS.

SEE FOR
YOURSELF WHAT
MAKES
GUINNESS AN
INTERNATIONAL
SUCCESS.

PHONE 01-200 0200
FOR OUR
FREE VIDEO.

In the interest of shareholders, Guinness Brewing Worldwide have recently produced a short documentary which shows how we operate overseas.

Available free in VHS, Betamax, V2000 or U-Matic, this 15 minute tape will help you gain a fuller understanding of Guinness' ideas in action.

This video tape is offered only to Distillers and Guinness

shareholders. If you are such a shareholder, to obtain your copy simply phone the 24 hour number above (for Scotland ring 041 332 3333) and ask for "Guinness Video."

You will be asked for your name, address and the type of tape you require and confirmation that you are a Distillers or Guinness shareholder. A tape will then be sent to you as quickly as possible.

GUINNESS PLC

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Gilts boosted as equities dip

Gilts blazed away again yesterday as the clearing banks chopped half a point from their base rates. Gains stretched to about two points as dealers looked forward to another small reduction soon.

But equities failed to hold an initial strong advance and another wave of profit-taking during the afternoon had prices looking mixed.

The FT 30-share index slipped by 12.8 points to 1388.1, while the FT-SE index fell by a similar number of points, to 1675.7.

Internationals suffered the most as the pound continued to remain strong against a weakening dollar.

Glaxo were among the worst hit, at 97½p, down 25p, ahead of next Tuesday's half-price, while ICI lost 1 1/2p to 916p on persistent talk of a bid for Beecham, which finished 2p better at 408p after actively trading between extremes of 415p and 399p.

Hawker, reporting later this month, gave up 8p to 571p and Vickers took head of "take profits" advice, down 20p to 517p.

Stores were good at first, but

also succumbed to selling pressure later in the session. Woolworth, at 875p, gave back 30p of its recent rise which followed last week's bid from Dixons Group.

Burton at 316p and Combined English, 228p, were others to lose about 15p. In contrast, Our Price was hoisted 75p to 648p following an agreed bid from W H Smith, 25p down at 330p.

Some house builders benefited from the prospects of cheaper mortgages, with Wimpey 4p better at 164p.

Estate agents were wanted for a similar reason, with Connells another 18p higher

at 231p ahead of next Friday's results, Mann & Co improved 15p to 305p in sympathy.

Engineers attracted selective support mainly on bid hopes. Pegler-Hattersley were to the fore again at 462p, up 20p. Weir Group climbed 10p to 143p on suggestions of an imminent approach from either F H Tomkins or GEC.

Talk of a big acquisition lapped 17p from Williams Holdings at 663p and Laird Group were another weak spot at 301p, down 22p after recent losses. TI Group remained in favour at 553p, up 14p, the Evered stake remaining a stimulant.

Recovery hopes lifted Johnson & Firth Brown at 43½p, up 4p, while Glywedd at 380p, up 5p, continued to benefit from the good results announced on Monday.

News of a defence contract boosted CAP Group 15p to 243p. Amstrad were hoisted 20p to 500p on further consideration of the Sinclair deal.

Granada jumped 8p to 292p as the chairman forecast a 37 per cent increase in pretax profit. Kwik-Fit added 4p to 100p after a 57 per cent earnings improvement.

Scottish TV rose 21p to 325p on Monday's results. Recent comment was responsive for another 40p advance in Bernard Matthews at 745p. Bejam, benefiting from the current unseasonal weather which is making fresh vegetables scarce, improved 8p to 155p.

Pentland put on 30p to 540p on the Reebok figures. British Syphon at 136p returned from suspension down 5p on the agreed merger terms with Marshall's Universal, 3p better at 85p.

A 95 per cent profit increase lifted London & Continental Advertising 14p to 185p. Cheerful statements also supported Ash & Lacy at 387p, Bodycote 25p, Arcazon 45p, Metsec 99p and Beaufort 131p up 2p to 13p.

Dwek Group, with figures due, was suspended at 77p, down 11p, while a 40 per cent setback chopped 4p from Newman Industries at 28p. Next gave up 6p to 288p in spite of profits well up to expectations but in mail orders Grattan was firm in ex-rights form at 452p, up 12p.

Continuum Stationery advanced 13p to 45p on news of an important stake change.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	Change	Price
Abbott M V (180p)	223 -2	
Agility (135p)	210 -3	
BPP (160p)	185	
Brookmount (160p)	188	
Chart FL (86p)	90 -3	
Chancery Secs (63p)	75	
Conv 9% A 2000 £30e +1½		
Cranwick M (95p)	105 +2	
Dialene (128p)	185 +5	
Ferguson LJ (10p)	29½ -2	
Gold Grn Trst (165p)	188	
Granyta Surface (66p)	80	
Inoco (55p)	36 -1	

JS Pathology (160p)	281
Jarvis Porter (105p)	133 +3
Kearford (118p)	118 +3
Laxicon (115p)	136 +2
Macro 4 (105p)	147 +2
Merivata M (115p)	108
Norank Sys (90p)	330 +2
Really Useful (330p)	139
SAC Int (100p)	155
SFP (125p)	218
Tamperton (215p)	78
Sigmax (101p)	120 +1
Snowdon & B (97p)	96
Spice (80p)	202
Tach Comp (130p)	

Underwoods (180p)	183 -1
Wallcome (120p)	209 -4
W York Hosp (90p)	75 -3
Wickes (140p)	171

RIGHTS ISSUES

Cullens F/P	275
Greycoat N/P	40 -2
Harthwells N/P	330
NMW Comp F/P	114 +8
Porter Chad F/P	249 +1
Safeway UK	150
Waleo F/P	80 -3
Westland F/P	
(losua price in brackets).	

TEMPUS
Davies still full of ideas for his Next trick

After four years of explosive growth at the Next retailing chain, George Davies, its chief executive, is still full of ideas for expansion. His outstanding record of profits growth was continued with yesterday's interim announcement of pretax profit of £13.7 million for the six months to March 31, 41 per cent up on last year.

Next is the bouncing baby which bounced all over its parent's uninspiring Hepworth group, so much that the family name was changed.

Next began as a specialist retailer of women's apparel, whence it has moved into men's fashion wear and home furnishings. Shoes, accessories and cosmetics are becoming increasingly available in Next stores. In the autumn, lingerie will be added to the range of goods offered and, in 18 months' time, children's wear.

Next dabbled in acquisition when it took over the Lord John chain. It is also reportedly to have considered buying the House of Fraser chain, excluding Harrods, a move which would have taken it into the big league of retailers at a stroke and changed the face of many city high streets. It has now principally decided to grow organically, although the temptations to make an acquisition remain.

Club 24, Next's credit card company, contributes about 25 per cent of pretax profit and lends stability to retailing earnings, which can be very volatile. Financially, the company is extremely strong. Gearing is close to 7 per cent and cash flow more than adequate. Its rating in the low 20s discounts quite a bit of future growth.

Kwik-Fit
Two and a half million motorists will take their car to be mended at a Kwik-Fit outlet this year. That compares with 2.1 million last year and 1.6 million the year before.

Increasing popularity is driving both profits and the share price forward at a tremendous rate.

Shares in Kwik-Fit (Tyres & Exhausts) have come up from a 12-month low of 55p to a high of 99p, where they were trading yesterday.

They could soon receive a further boost if the company succeeds in its attempt to switch its listing from the automotive components sector, where it lies alongside manufacturers such as GKN

and Lucas Industries, to the more highly-rated stores sector.

Kwik-Fit says this designation would more accurately reflect the retailing nature of its business.

Whatever the sector, Kwik-Fit now has a growth tag. Profits jumped from £4.23 million to £6.63 million before tax last year and there should be good progress again this year.

Though 33 depots were opened the company saw little of the benefit as 22 of them started in the last two months of the year. Kwik-Fit expects to open another 30 this year.

Exhausts account for 46 per cent of turnover, tyres for 35 per cent and other products, including radiators, account for the rest.

The latter group is becoming increasingly important as the company introduces a broader range of products.

For the longer term, it has plans to open up to 100 Car Care centres offering a complete car service.

While the cost of new depots should be covered by cash flow from trading, the Car Care project could require special funding, given gearing of 57 per cent. That could be why the company is planning to sell its property portfolio, which has a book value of £11 million. Confirmation of these property disposals should remove fears of a rights issue.

The shares are trading on a modest multiple of 11 times prospective earnings assuming profits of £8.5 million and a slightly higher tax charge.

They should continue to perform well and should be particularly attractive to car owners as they can make use of the 10 per cent discount available to holders of 100 shares.

BP/Standard Oil
BP's biggest investment is its 55.5 per cent share in the Standard Oil Company, formerly Sohio. In the financial year just ended, its interest in Standard Oil contributed 50 per cent of its net income of £1.6 billion before extraordinary charges.

Despite the considerable expansion of Standard Oil's downstream capacity through the purchase of Gulf's refining and marketing properties, the company was still dependent on oil production in Alaska for more than 85 per cent of its pretax profit from integrated oil operations last year.

The fall in the oil price is of concern to BP, therefore, but it is a particular worry in the case of Alaskan oil with its high cost of operation.

Extraction costs have fallen recently because Alaskan severance taxes are calculated at 15 per cent of the well-head value, which has fallen. Despite this, they are still estimated to be \$4.25 per barrel.

Moving the oil across Alaska via the Alyeska pipeline costs another \$4.50 a barrel. Between them, Standard Oil and BP own 50 per cent of the pipeline, so the tariff is partly a transfer charge. However, the operating cost of the line and interest on capital amount to about \$1.60.

The rest of the journey from Valdez to the refining centres in the Gulf of Mexico and the East Coast of America costs another \$3 or so giving a built-up marginal cost to the refiner of nearly \$9 per barrel.

North Slope crude is heavier and higher in sulphur, so its spot value is approximately 25 cents a barrel lower than West Texas Intermediate, the most frequently quoted US crude. The current spot price of Alaskan crude is therefore about \$12 after recent rises.

At a delivered cost of nearly \$9, Alaskan crude was barely profitable when the spot price was \$10 and even though the price has risen to \$12, the price is still volatile and profitability remains vulnerable.

Even if the price fell to a level where there was no profit to be made on Alaskan oil, it is unlikely that the Prudhoe Bay field would be closed altogether because of the considerable costs associated with shutting it down and restarting it when the price recovered. For this to happen, there would need to be a prolonged decline to between \$7 and \$8 per barrel.

Most of Standard Oil's output is disposed of directly or via exchanges into its own refineries at prices of \$14 in the Gulf and \$13 in the East Coast. Consequently, production profits are being subsidised by the refining and marketing operations, but this will not go on indefinitely.

If the price remains low, competition will gradually erode product prices, reducing total profitability.

Even allowing for the time-lag while product prices catch up with the lower oil prices, the outlook for Standard Oil's and hence BP's profits is not bright unless oil prices stabilize at higher levels

Factory jobs drop by 40% in decade

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The decline in manufacturing industries over the last decade has been confirmed and highlighted in the latest analysis of the Government's 1981 census, which shows that in some major cities employment in manufacturing has dropped by more than 40 per cent.

The report says that while the fall in the number of people with jobs was about 4 per cent between 1971 and 1981, the drop in manufacturing was nearly 24 per cent, representing a loss of 1.9 million jobs.

In agriculture, forestry and fishing, the fall was 19 per cent, but this represented only 100,000 jobs.

Employment rose in every region in distribution and catering industries and also in other fields, including local and central government financial and business services, entertainment, recreation and personal services.

In London, Birmingham,

and Manchester, the number employed in manufacturing fell by 40 per cent, while there were increases in the rural districts.

The census records a decline in the numbers of salesmen in the 10 years and of male economists, statisticians, systems analysts and computer programmers, although the number of women in these jobs almost doubled.


In 1981, about 10 per cent of the economically active men and 7 per cent of the women were looking for work - a combined rate of 9 per cent - while 18 per cent of teenagers were jobless. The report stresses that while there has been a big rise in unemployment since 1981, the general patterns of areas and social differentials still prevail.

Census Guide 3 - Britain's workforce. Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, St Catherine's House, 10, Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP. Price £3.

NEW INTEREST RATES

Base Rate
Reduces by 0.5% to 11% per annum with effect from 9th April 1986.

Deposit Account
Interest on Deposit Accounts reduces by 0.5% to 5.25% net p.a. with effect from 9th April 1986. For those customers who receive interest gross, the rate reduces to 7.02% p.a.



Midland Bank
Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

SKF

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aktiebolaget SKF will be held at SKF Kristinedal, Byfogdegatan 4, Göteborg, Sweden, at 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 29 April, 1986.

Agenda
Ordinary general meeting business will be transacted in accordance with Swedish law and the Articles of Association.

Other business is a Board proposal that Article 4 of the Company's Articles of Association be altered to set the lowest authorised share capital limit at 1,350,000,000 Swedish kronor and the highest authorised limit at 5,400,000,000 kronor, and that an amendment to Article 6 be made to limit the number of authorised 'A' and 'B' shares to a maximum of 108,000,000 respectively.

AGM acceptance of the Board's dividend proposal for 1985 would, in accordance with the Company's Articles, also require the conversion of all 'C' shares to 'B' shares. In the event of said dividends being declared, a Board resolution to invalidate the regulations governing 'C' shares by changing Article 6 will be put to the meeting.

The AGM is further to consider authorising the Board to decide - no later than the following Annual General Meeting - on a convertible bond issue in foreign currency not exceeding 650,000,000 Swedish kronor. The issue - to the exclusion of shareholders' preference rights - would be aimed at the international money market, with the bonds being convertible to non-restricted 'B' shares.

In conclusion, a matter raised by a shareholder concerning South Africa will also be taken up.

Notice of attendance
For the right to participate in the meeting, shareholders must notify the Board, at the Company's address in Göteborg, before noon on Thursday 24 April, preferably in writing, of their intention to attend, giving details of name, address, telephone and shareholding. They must also be recorded in the shareholders' register kept by the Securities Register Centre (VPC AB, S-171 18 Solna) by Friday 18 April.

Shareholders with holdings registered in banks or other authorized depositaries must temporarily re-register these in their own name by Friday 18 April to be able to participate in the Annual General Meeting.

Payment of dividends
The Board recommends that shareholders with holdings in the VPC AB records on 6 May be entitled to receive dividends for 1985. Subject to the Board's proposal being accepted by the Annual General Meeting, it is expected that the Securities Register Centre will send out notice of payment to recorded shareholders and listed depositaries on 14 May.

Proxy forms are available from
AB SKF, S-415 50 Göteborg, Sweden
Tel: +46 31-372755 & 371000

Battle for wine sales hot up

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The wine market, already worth more than £3.2 billion, is expected to keep growing as the battle between supermarkets and specialist outlets enters a new phase.

Table wines account for two-thirds of the sales with stronger wines such as vermouth and port taking up the remainder.

Among factors fuelling the struggle are changed consumer patterns creating the wine consumption boom and technological developments which have raised the quality and lowered the cost of production, according to a financial study* by Jordan Surveys.

Profit margins, generous by the standards of the food industry, are another factor.

Over the past two decades, wine consumption per head of those aged 15 and over has trebled to 11.4 litres a year, the survey points out. Wine in 1984 accounted for 22.3 per cent of consumer expenditure on drink and was almost equal to spending on spirits.

Grocery chains, after aggressive marketing, have now seized 48.3 per cent of the wine market with specialist outlets like wine merchants accounting for 47.8 per cent. Outlets like hotels and restaurants are responsible for the remainder of sales.

The market analysis, which was prepared by the Catering Management and Applied Economics Department of Oxford Polytechnic, said shifts in leisure patterns and lifestyles would tend to favour wine consumption.

The fall in real terms of the value of excise duties and the escape from any increase in the Budget, was likely to maintain the

take-home market in alcoholic drinks is dominated by J. Sainsbury and Tesco Stores whose combined sales amount to £500 million.

But the specialist outlets are fighting back, the survey said. Both Bass and Whitbread among the big brewers have increased their stake in off-licences while brewery-owned chains like Allied-Lyons' Victoria Wine and Grand Metropolitan's Peter Dominic have upgraded their marketing.

Financial analysis showed International Distillers and Vintners (part of Grand Metropolitan) to have had the highest turnover and best pre-tax profits in 1984.

*Britain's Wine Industry: Jordan and Sons; Jordan House, Brunswick Place, London N1 6EE. £125.

THE GUINNESS BID FOR DISTILLERS. LATEST PRICES.

Distillers share price worth	698p
Guinness best and final offer worth	757p
Guinness higher by	+ 59p

Figure based on the market price at 3.50pm Tuesday

The Guinness offer is unanimously recommended by the Board of Distillers. The closing date is April 18th at 3pm.

GUINNESS PLC

This advertisement is published by Morgan Grenfell & Co Limited and The British Linen Bank Ltd on behalf of Guinness PLC. The Directors of Guinness PLC are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief the information is true and correct and that the information is not misleading. The value of Guinness PLC depends on the share price. The share price is subject to fluctuations. The value of Guinness PLC is not guaranteed. The value of Guinness PLC is not guaranteed. The value of Guinness PLC is not guaranteed. The value of Guinness PLC is not guaranteed.

The reports faded enthusiastically already eroded on Monday when shares recovered from sharp losses at the end of the day. Shares on Monday were also affected by the Norwegian...

North Sea oil workers' strike which boosted crude oil prices. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 13 points to 1,748. The average had retreated most of last week and through midweek on Monday, its recovery amounting to more than 100 points.

Advancing shares led declining issues by a margin of seven-to-two.

Shares on Monday were also affected by the Norwegian...

Table with columns for company names and stock prices. Includes companies like ATR, ASA, Allied Signal, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing Sterling spot and forward rates for various terms like 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Spot rate compared with 1976 was 76.7 (day's rate 76.5-77.3).

Rate supplied by Barclays Bank NYPEX and Exel. *Lloyds Bank International

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table showing money market rates and gold prices. Includes sections for Euro Money Deposits % and Gold prices.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures prices for various contracts like 3 month 11% 10/10, 6 month 10% 12/10, etc.

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Table showing London commodity exchange prices for various commodities like sugar, cocoa, coffee, etc.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing other sterling rates for various countries like Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, etc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various countries like India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, etc.

SOYABEAN

Table showing soyabean prices for various grades and origins.

GAS OIL

Table showing gas oil prices for various grades and origins.

GOLD

Table showing gold prices for various types like London Gold, Gold Bars, etc.

ECGD

Table showing ECGD (Export Credits Guarantee Department) rates.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table showing financial trusts prices for various funds like High Low, Company, Price, etc.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table showing London metal exchange prices for various metals like copper, zinc, lead, etc.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

Table showing meat and livestock prices for various types of meat.

STANDARD CATHODES

Table showing standard cathodes prices for various grades.

ZINC HIGH GRADE

Table showing zinc high grade prices for various origins.

SILVER LARGE

Table showing silver large prices for various grades.

SILVER SMALL

Table showing silver small prices for various grades.

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Table showing London grain futures prices for various types of grain.

POTATO FUTURES

Table showing potato futures prices for various grades.

BITUMEN

Table showing bitumen prices for various grades.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

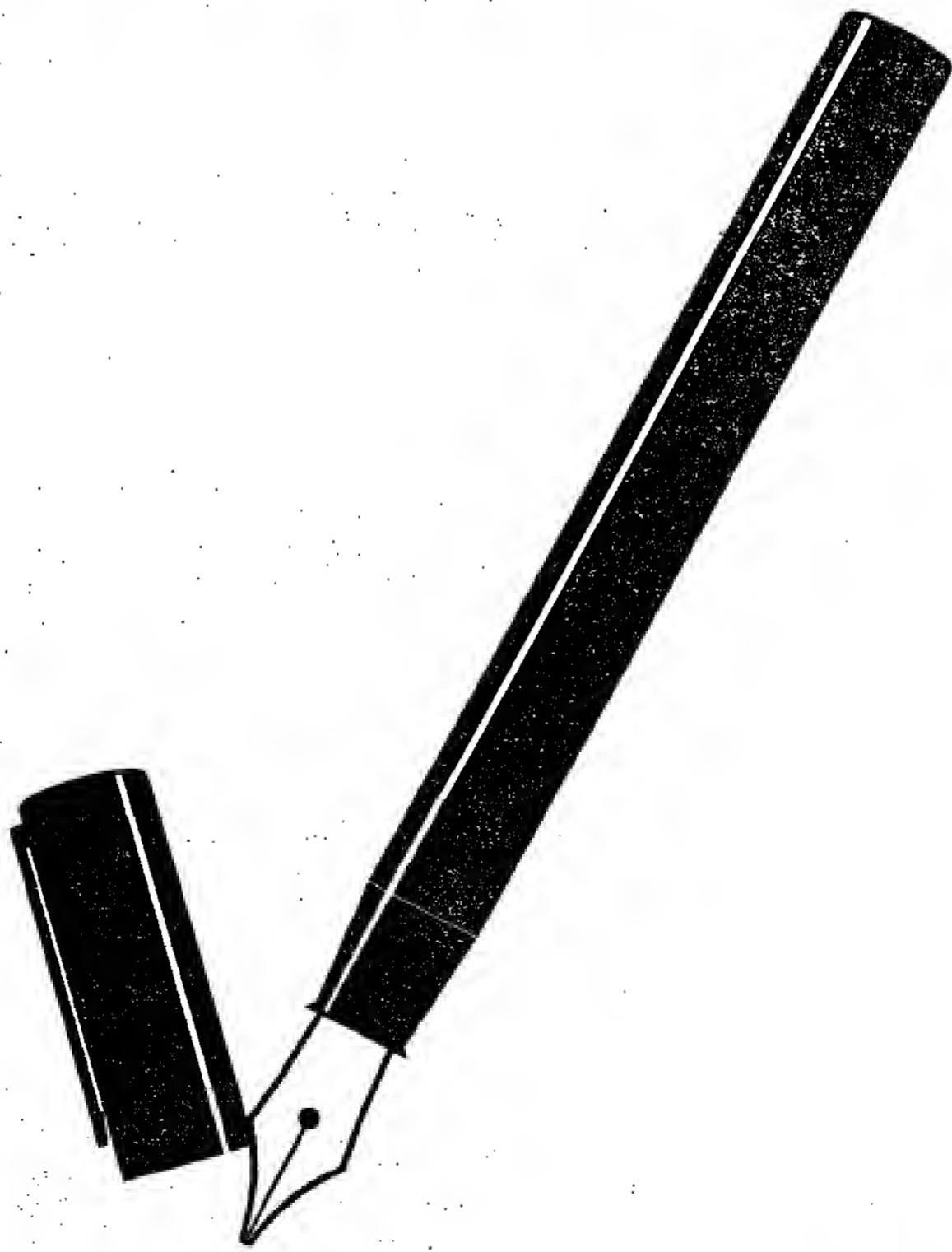
Table showing financial trusts prices for various funds.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table providing detailed information on unit trusts, including names, managers, and performance data.

Handwritten note: "Call in to..."

Imperial Shareholders: Post your UB acceptance form today!



To be sure your acceptance of the UB offer arrives in time, you *must* post it today. It has to be received by 3:00 pm this Friday, 11th April 1986.

If you are in any doubt how to complete the form, ring our Help Line on 0272 666961 and reverse the charges.



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Agency to seek PCW meeting

By Alison Eadie

AUA3, the agency appointed by Lloyd's insurance market to close the loss-making PCW syndicates, has requested a meeting with Mr Peter Cameron-Webb, the former managing director of the PCW agency, to try to find out what action he would have taken if he had remained in charge.

Sir Ian Morrow, chairman of AUA3, wrote this week to names on former PCW syndicates. "It has been suggested that the losses which affect some of the syndicates under our management would not have occurred if the original PCW management had remained."

"We can find no evidence whatsoever to substantiate such a view, but in order to investigate it I have written to Mr Cameron-Webb in the United States to enquire whether he would agree to meet me."

Mr Cameron-Webb is alleged to have misappropriated £2.5 million of syndicate funds for his own benefit. He agreed last weekend to pay back \$1.5 million (£1 million). The letter also said that the syndicates' accounts at December 31, 1985, would not be ready until the end of June. The accounts are expected to show a much higher loss than the £130 million shown last year.

Sir Ian believes that proposals for a market settlement could be made in the next few weeks. He said that potential defendants against legal action by PCW names expect names to contribute "a significant amount" to the settlement.

Reporting record profits, London & Edinburgh Trust, the Knightsbridge property development group, is lifting its final dividend for 1985 from 3.75p to 4.5p, raising the total from 6.25p to 7.5p. The board plans a one-for-five scrip issue and intends to maintain the dividend on the enlarged capital for 1986.

Last year, turnover more than doubled to £72.05 million, against £33.38 million. Pretax profits climbed from £5.11 million to a best-ever £9.2 million. In the interim report last October, the board predicted "significantly higher" pretax profits for the year. Operating profit rose from £4.36 million to £7.3 million, while rental income increased from £1.1 million to £1.44 million. The trust's share of related companies' profits jumped from £118,000 to £337,000 and net interest receivable was £113,000, compared with £471,000 payable last time.

WYNDHAM GROUP: The group is to buy a freehold site known as Springfield House, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff, from R J Greatrex for £260,000 cash.

ARENSON GROUP: Interim dividend 0.4p (nil) for the 5th months to Feb 2, 1986. Turnover £6.94 million (£7.38 million). Pretax profit £236,000 (£260,000). Earnings per share 2p (0.26p).

LONDON AND CONTINENTAL ADVERTISING: Total dividend for 1985 2.25p (1.6p). Turnover £28.65 million (£17.64 million). Pretax profit £3.51 million (£1.8 million). Earnings per share 9.33p (6.27p). The board reports that the current year has started well.

NETSEC: Final dividend of 1.3p for 1985. If the ordinary shares had been dealt in on the USM for the whole year, the board would have recommended a dividend of 2.46p. Turnover £14.83 million (£12.4 million). Pretax profit £1.38 million (£658,000). Earnings per share 6.68p (3p).

Peak profits from London & Edinburgh

COMPANY NEWS

RILEY LEISURE: No dividend for 1985 (0.7p). Turnover £25.76 million (£22.57 million). Pretax profit £751,000 (loss £1.22 million). Earnings per share 1.8p (loss 9.6p).

MEMORY COMPUTER: For the six months to December 31, 1985 (six months to September 30, 1984), with figures in 1r £000, turnover was 3,578 (2,131), pretax profit 58 (loss 2,204) and tax 32 (18). Earnings per share were 0.04p (loss 35.8p).

Profits at Johnston Group, the Surrey civil and mechanical engineer, staged a partial recovery last year. Before tax, they improved from £4.46 million to £5.54 million - but they are still below 1983's £5.9 million. Turnover expanded from £58.37 million to £62.09 million. The final dividend is going up from 5p to 5.25p, making 7.5p (7p). Earnings per share slipped to 30.98p (31.26p), but the net asset value climbed to 273p (257p).

CLYDE PETROLEUM: The chairman, Dr Colin Phipps, said that 1986 would probably see an acceleration in rationalization and restructuring of oil sector at home and overseas. The company could not be immune to this, nor should it be.

TR ENERGY: With figures in £000, income from fixed assets investments for the six months to December 31, 1985, 777 (871), investment dealing losses 157 (36), pretax loss 24 (profit 17) and tax nil (5.6). Loss per share was 0.10p (earnings per share 0.05p).

COMBINED ENGLISH STORES GROUP: The company has bought 50 per cent of Paige Group, the 246-branch women's wear retailer, for £2.3 million. Great Universal Stores retains a 50 per cent interest in Paige and will keep the freehold and longer leasehold interests in properties it leases to Paige. The board of Paige will comprise Mr Murray Gordon (who will be chairman), Mr David Roxburgh and Mr Pat Hammond-Turner from Combined English, and Mr Eric Barnes, Mr Walter Wolfe and Mr Walter Kelly from Great Universal. Combined English will have full managerial responsibilities for the business.

THE FLEMING JAPANESE INVESTMENT TRUST: The net asset value per ordinary share for the six months to January 31, 1986, was 652.2p (606.6p). Investment income in £ franked dividends 105,521 (106,117), unfranked dividends 443,698 (266,493), unfranked interest 171,384 (392,287), deposit interest 206,384 (208,251), lending fees 7,441 (6,064), making 994,438 (979,216). Preference dividend 5,250 (5,250), making 512,336 (529,596). Earnings per share were 3.14p (2.94p).

GODFREY DAVIS (HOLDINGS): The company has bought Stephards Grove Park, Stanton, Suffolk, from ABI Park Developments for £825,000, the consideration being for the business of the park home residential estate, the freehold of the park which is licensed for 191 homes, and £27,000 of plant and machinery.

DAVIDSON PEARCE GROUP: The company has acquired the remaining 70 per cent of the issued share capital of Bay Tree that it did not already own.

FRIENDLY HOTELS: Final 0.7p, making 0.7p (7p). Results for year to December 28. Figures in £000. Group profit 114 (91) after all charges. Earnings per share 22.4p (16.6p).

LEE INTERNATIONAL: 21,676 applications for 42,074,600 shares were received from the general public and 397 applications for 1,494,150 shares were received from the group's employees. After allowing in full the shares applied for by employees on preferential application forms, 15,168,050 shares are available for the general public, to be allotted as follows: between 100 and 300 shares applied for, allocation is full; 300-400 applied for, 300 allotted; 500-700 applied for, 400 allotted; 800-1,100 applied for, 500 allotted; 1,200-2,000 applied for, 600 allotted; up to 2,500 applied for, 800 allotted; 3,000-18,000 applied for, about 33 per cent allotted; 19,000-22,000 applied for, 6,000 allotted; 23,000 and over, about 25 per cent allotted.

ACARS: Acceptances of the offer by Mr William West for the share capital of the company has been received for 1,262,387 ordinary shares (63.1 per cent), for which irrevocable undertakings had been given before the offer was announced.

ISC Defence and Space Group, a US offshoot of London-based International Signal & Control, is to buy Electro Magnetic Processes of Chatsworth, California. The price is \$3.5 million cash (£2.4 million), with two instalments, payable in cash in 1987 and 1988, following certification of EMP's accounts and based on EMP's profits after tax. The additional consideration will represent some 6.7 times the average profit after tax for the two years to 1987. Last year, EMP's sales were \$8.9 million. Its net assets at the year-end were about \$4.4 million.

KLEINWORT BENSON STERLING ASSET FUND: For the period October 1 1985 to March 31, Dividend 4.9p making 4.9p (5.1p). Operating costs 428 (365), depletion 1,133 (762), gross profit 116 (915), admin expenses 191 (97), amortization of exploration expenditure 261 (91), other income 225 (70), operating loss 12 (47) (796), interest expense 69 (136), loss before tax 180.

BEATSON CLARK: The chairman, Mr David Clark, said that Brookhill Mouldings would shortly commission first phase of new factory to accommodate expansion of flexible plastic tube business. In Australia foundations were laid for further expansion. New opportunities were expected in Holland for Pont Packaging. However, improved performance would to some extent be offset by consolidation of an expected trading loss from Beatson Plastics in its first year of operation.

Bryan Cowgill elected to board of SelecTV



Mr Bryan Cowgill, deputy chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, has been elected to the board. Mr Cowgill has more than 30 years' experience in television broadcasting, setting up BBC television sports coverage as head of sport in the 1960s and later becoming controller of BBC1 in the 1970s.

The Phoenix Timber Group Mr David H Darke has been appointed group managing director.

Stonegate Farmers: Mr Paul Parsons has been made chairman and managing director. Allied International Designers: Mr John Salisse joins the board as a non-executive director.

Balmoral Group: Mr Mark Patterson has become a director.

The Declan Kelly Group: Mr Harry B Caswell becomes land director.

Brown Shipley Insurance Group Management: Mr R N Ames, chairman, Mr D C McIntosh, deputy chairman, Lord Faruhah, Mr A C D Ingleby-Mackenzie, Mr F H Brandenburg, Mr A W Mansfield have all been appointed to the board.

Brown Shipley Insurance Services: Mr M J Rusby has been made a director. Mr C Barker is the new deputy managing director of Brown Shipley Insurance Brokers & I. Mr C Ford is now deputy managing director and Mr D Pressley is a director of Brown Shipley Insurance Brokers (UK).

Alwen Hough Johnson (Holdings): Mr A S Fox has been appointed a director and Mr D J Mess has been made a director of Alwen Hough Johnson.

Bradstock, Blunt & Thompson (L&P): Mr Terry C Monk has been named as managing director. Mr Geoffrey Smith is now deputy chairman.

Reed Plastic Packaging: Mr D J Cooksey has become managing director.

Whessoe Haden Offshore: Mr M W Hipple, chairman, Mr W F Edwards, Mr F Middlemiss and Mr J D Pool have been appointed to the board of directors.

Killick Martin & Co: Mr John Webb and Mr Ron Paterson join the board. S & W Berisford: Mr John R Sclater has become a non-executive director.

Biwater: Mr Stuart Nuttall joins the corporate board.

Schlumberger Measurement and Control (UK): Mr Alan Plumpton has become a director.

Clayton Properties: Mr Robert Ware has been appointed a director.

Harper-Smith, Bennett: Mr Ray Whittaker, Mr Norman Murray and Mr Roger Brown have been made partners.

Rapra Technology: Dr Malcolm Hall has joined the board.

Securicor: Mr H C Coxall has been promoted to vice-chairman of Securicor Air Couriers. He is succeeded as managing director by Mr J Wild.

Satchwell Control Systems: Mr Christopher Smyth has been made managing director.

Ward White Group: Mr Peter George Arber has joined the main board. Mr Stephen Eberidge is promoted from sales director to managing director of John White Footwear in succession to Mr Arber.

London & Edinburgh Trust: Mr John H Gann and Mr Keith J Rawlings have been appointed to the board.

Ward White Group: Mr Peter George Arber has joined the main board.

Sabre Securities Ltd: Mr Bryan Hawkins has been made a non-executive director.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange

STAT-PLUS GROUP PLC

(Incorporated in England under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981 Registered No. 1071698)

SHARE CAPITAL

AUTHORISED £425,000	ISSUED AND FULLY PAID in Ordinary Shares of 5p each £358,333
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Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the whole of the issued share capital of Stat-Plus Group PLC formerly dealt in on the Unlisted Securities Market to be admitted to the Official List.

Particulars relating to the Company are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of the listing particulars may be obtained during normal office hours on any weekday (Saturdays and Bank Holidays excepted) for 14 days from the date of this notice from Stat-Plus Group PLC, Stat-Plus House, 11 Greenlea Park, Prince George's Road, Collier's Wood, London SW19 2PU and from Laurence, Prust & Co., 7-11 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AH, and for the two business days following the date of this notice from Company Announcements Office, The Stock Exchange, London EC2R 6AH.

LAURENCE, PRUST & CO.
Basildon House, 7-11 Moorgate
London EC2R 6AH

9th April 1986

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN.....	12.50%
Adam & Company.....	11.50%
BCCI.....	11.50%
Citibank Savings.....	11.95%
Consolidated Crds.....	11.00%
Continental Trust.....	11.50%
Co-operative Bank.....	11.50%
C. Hoare & Co.....	11.50%
Lloyds Bank.....	11.00%
Nat Westminster.....	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland.....	11.00%
TSB.....	11.00%
Citibank NA.....	11.50%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on 9th April, 1986, Hill Samuel's Base Rate for lending will be decreased from 11.5% to 11.0% per annum.

DEMAND DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

Depositors not liable to deduction for basic rate tax

7.02% per annum gross.

Depositors liable to deduction for basic rate tax

5.25% per annum net

7.39% per annum gross equivalent interest to be paid quarterly and rates are subject to variation.

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited
100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AL
Telephone: 01-628 8011

This advertisement is published by V M Bennett & Sons Limited and J Hens Vanden Waeghe & Co Limited on behalf of Hanson Trust PLC. The Directors of Hanson Trust PLC are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. The Board of Directors of Hanson Trust PLC are not responsible for the information contained in this advertisement in compliance with the law. The Directors of Hanson Trust PLC are not responsible for the information contained in this advertisement.

Latest prices:

Mindful that share prices can vary daily, we are publishing a bulletin showing the value of our offer for Imperial. The value we've quoted is based on our best possible offer. The next closing date of our offer is April 11 at 3 pm.

IMPERIAL SHARE PRICE:

347.0 P.

HANSON BID WORTH:

369.0 P.

HANSON BID HIGHER BY:

+22.0 P.

Times based on the market prices at 3.15pm on Thursday.

HANSON TRUST

The values of Hanson Trust's other dependent shares price. The above offer value is for Hanson Trust's Share and Convertible Stock. It is not an estimate of the value of the 10% convertible loan stock of Hanson Trust. The value of the convertible stock is estimated by us as it will only be listed in the event of the offer becoming unconditional.

Standard Chartered Base Rate

On and after 8th April, 1986 Standard Chartered Bank's Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 11.50% to 11.00%

Deposit Rates are	Gross Interest	Net Interest
7 days' notice	7.50%	5.61%
21 days' notice	8.25%	6.17%

Interest paid half-yearly

Standard Chartered Bank
Head Office 38 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4DE
Tel. 01-280 7500 Telex 885951

National Westminster Bank PLC

NatWest announces that with effect from Tuesday, 8th April, 1986, its Base Rate is decreased from 11.50% to 11.00% per annum.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

TSB BANK

With effect from the close of business on Tuesday, 8th April, 1986, and until further notice TSB Base Rate is decreased from 11.5% p.a. to 11.0% p.a.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to TSB Base Rate will be varied accordingly

Trustee Savings Banks Central Board
PO Box 33, 25 Milk Street, London EC2V 8LU.

Coutts & Co

Coutts & Co. announce that their Base Rate is reduced from 11.50% to 11.00% per annum with effect from the 8th April, 1986 until further notice.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to Coutts Base Rate will be varied accordingly

The Deposit Rates on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal are as follows:-

7.25% per annum Gross*
5.25% per annum Net (the Gross Equivalent of which is 7.39% per annum to a basic rate tax payer).

Rates are subject to variation and interest is paid half-yearly in June and December

*Not ordinarily available to individuals who are U.K. residents

440 Strand, London, WC2R 0QS

Handwritten signature or note in a box at the bottom left corner.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PUBLISHED BY MORGAN GRENFELL & CO LIMITED ON BEHALF OF UNITED BISCUITS HOLDINGS PLC. THE DIRECTORS OF UNITED BISCUITS HOLDINGS PLC ARE THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF (HAVING TAKEN ALL REASONABLE CARE TO ENSURE THAT SUCH IS THE CASE). THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FACTS. THE DIRECTORS OF UNITED BISCUITS HOLDINGS PLC ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY ACCORDINGLY.

UB's offer for Imperial. Latest prices:



Imperial's share price.

351.0p

UB's best and final offer.

360.9p

UB's offer higher by:

+ 9.9p

Based on market prices at 3.30pm on Tuesday, 8th April 1986.



Final acceptances for the UB offer must be received by 3pm Friday, 11th April 1986*

United Imperial

THE VALUE OF UB'S OFFER DEPENDS ON ITS SHARE PRICE. THE ABOVE OFFER VALUE IS FOR UB'S ORDINARY SHARE ALTERNATIVE AND TAKES ACCOUNT OF AN ESTIMATE BY POWE & FITMAN AND WOOD MACKENZIE & CO LIMITED, BROKERS TO UB, OF THE VALUE OF THE NEW UB CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SHARES. THE VALUE OF THE CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED SHARES IS ESTIMATED BECAUSE THEY WILL ONLY BE LISTED IN THE EVENT OF THE OFFER BECOMING UNCONDITIONAL.

*UNLESS THE OFFER HAS BECOME UNCONDITIONAL AS TO ACCEPTANCES

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes sections for INDUSTRIALS A-O, BUILDING AND ROADS, ELECTRICALS, and SHORTS (Under Five Years).

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E.

UNDATED table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E.

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INDEX-LINKED table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares turn mixed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 1. Dealings end Friday. \$Conjongo day April 14. Settlement day, April 21. \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for BREWERIES.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for BUILDING AND ROADS.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for CHEMICALS, PLASTICS.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for CINEMAS AND TV.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for DRAPERY AND STORES.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for HOTELS AND CATERERS.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for INDUSTRIALS A-D.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for SHOES AND LEATHER.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for TEXTILES.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for TOBACCO.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for OIL.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for E-K.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for FINANCE AND LAND.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for FOODS.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for L-R.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1986 High, 1986 Low, Price, Change, % P/E. Includes section for S-Z.

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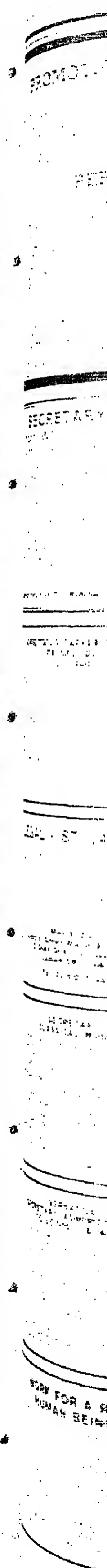
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April 10 1986



LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Senior Secretaries' first one-day course on 'Management Thinking for Secretaries' last month was designed to make secretaries more aware of the management function and their own role within it.

Some typical comments by PAs and secretaries who attended: 'A very professional and worthwhile day'. 'The course confirmed I was thinking along the right lines'.

My luck changed, Fiona, from the moment I was introduced to Senior Secretaries.



I became much more aware of time management and the art of delegation. The course will be repeated on April 30 and June 10. The fee of £175 + £26.25 VAT includes morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.

To make sure of a place on either of these dates ring Elizabeth Moon today on 01-499 0092.

Senior Secretaries
WEST END • CITY • KNIGHTSBRIDGE • BRUSSELS

£12,000 negotiable
Our client needs an excellent and thoroughly reliable PA to work from his own home helping with his property development business. You will be working entirely on your own for part of the time, so must be a self-starter and very well organised. Your responsibilities will include personal and confidential matters in addition to his business affairs. Skills 100/60. Age 35-45.
Telephone: 01-499 0092

PA IN STOCKBROKING
£12,500 + Mortgage Subsidy
Are you an outgoing, career-minded PA seeking a challenge? If so, our client, a high-powered American Chief Executive of a major stockbroking firm in EC2 would like to meet you. This position requires initiative, motivation and a willingness to take responsibility. Your knowledge of the City and talent for building a rapport with clients will be invaluable. Skills of 100/60. Age 24-35.
Telephone: 01-606 1611

DIRECTORS' P.A.
Based in EC4, this position requires a tough-minded secretary who has solid experience in personnel. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing and financial directors and will assist in creating and administering the personnel department in a young company employing circa 200 personnel. You will be aged 30-40 years, shorthand and typing and some w.p. experience. In return you will be paid a handsome salary, have a bonus in December and 4 weeks' holiday per year.
Telephone: 01-606 1611

TAKE ON A CHALLENGE
A rare chance exists for a young, bright and lively P.A. with the energy and motivation to move into a new and stimulating area of a firm of investment brokers. You will be thoroughly involved from the start and your poise and confidence will be fully utilised in the successful establishment of this new venture. Skills of 80/60 with w.p. experience. Age 20+. Salary c. £3,500 plus excellent benefits package.
Telephone: 01-606 1611

PROMOTIONS SECRETARY
c £9,000
Organise and administer the affairs of a tough young management team of 3, responsible for the Group's sponsorship and promotion activities, in the entertainment industry, nationwide. A post for a talented and organised administrator, aged 24-30, with good secretarial skills (100-60) and an extrovert personality.

PERSONNEL
c £9,500
To assist a newly appointed Personnel Manager in the restructuring and computerisation of the Company's personnel records, staff appraisals, salary reviews, bonus schemes etc. for approx. 850 staff. Previous personnel experience in these areas is essential as is the confidence to interview internal and external operatives and deputise generally in the manager's absence.

In the first instance contact Paul Saunders on one of these telephone numbers or alternatively send your C.V. to him at this address.

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KINGSWAY TEMPORARY STAFF CONSULTANTS
We're one of London's leading temporary staff supply companies and we're literally got work coming out of our ears. Our list of clients includes some of the country's leading employers, all of whom recognise the benefit of using Kingsway's top calibre temporary staff.

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URGENTLY LOOKING TO FILL THIS WEEK:-

KINGSWAY I
IBM 5520 Operator. 6 weeks assignment in American Bank

KINGSWAY II
Wordstar Secretary with S/H to work for Mayfair Property Company.

IBM 8100, using S/H secretarial skills for a Merchant Bank in the City

Wang Operators with S/H always needed for immediate work.

Zerox 860 Secretary, no S/H to start immediately, for 4 weeks.

S/H Secretaries with 90wpm shorthand and accurate typing.

SENIOR PA/Secretary
IPEC is a fast-growing firm of petroleum engineering consultants with an international reputation and client base. We require a highly educated Senior PA/Secretary to work for the Managing Director in our Hanover Square office. This is one of the two senior administrative positions in IPEC and you will have extensive interaction with the Board of Directors. Career advancement can be rapid for the person who can build on their current experience to take on responsibilities of a more general management and business nature. This will require contact with our clients and interest in developing more general business skills, particularly in the support of marketing activities.

To carry out your responsibilities, you will need to employ excellent all round secretarial skills, including shorthand and wordprocessing. However, this will only establish your basic credentials. The right applicant will be able to demonstrate both flair and ambition for taking the initiative in handling and sorting out complex business problems as a key member of the company's management. Competence in other European languages would be an advantage but will not be the determining factor.

Applicants under 25 are unlikely to have the required experience for this position which obviously offers an excellent salary and benefits package. Please write enclosing CV with full details of experience, present salary package and availability to:

International Petroleum Engineering Consultants Limited,
18 Hanover Square, LONDON W1R 9DA.

IPEC INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS LIMITED

FINANCE
£10,500
Spring into action! Expanding young Finance Co seeks someone who can step up to new position. You'll be 100/60, numerate, with initiative and ability to cope under pressure. Beautiful new office. Pension prospects.

MARKETING
£10,000
Search opportunity has arisen for a top S.H. PA to work for the charming Marketing Director of this famous Financial Services Group. You'll be experienced, enthusiastic & articulate with a flair for admin & "dealing with people".

GRADUATES
£10,500
Two smart graduates required to share creative ideas and work as part of a team in finance company based in EC2. Good secretarial skills of 90+/60+ a must. Very small job - no too many days are the same! Lovely personality. Good prospects.

DESIGN
£10,500
Young, but very talented Design Co seeks a dynamic Secretary to get involved in the running of their marketing section. Good SH/Typing skills, shorthand not for administrative and organisational at the top level requirements. Design laptop, travel arrangements, client contact, good prospects.

CITY: 01-481 2345
WEST END: 01-938 2188

SECRETARY/PA
London W1 **£9,000+**
A leading Management Consultancy requires a Secretary/PA to look after the modest requirements of the two Partners, run a small office and be capable of working alone during frequent absence of Partners.

You will form part of a closely knit enthusiastic team, dealing with many leaders of business, industry and government, and servicing some of Europe's largest public and private organisations.

Age 28-45, good secretarial skills (shorthand not essential), with a sound education. Ideally to degree standard. An attractive earnings package will be negotiated with a minimum base of £3,000, free lunches and other working environment, including your own office.

Please reply to Box Number A32 with CV.

CHRISTINE WATSON LTD.
RIGHT AT THE TOP IN ADVERTISING
£12,000
This Leading Agency requires the best PA, one that we can find for top man. Presentation, voice, skills, and the social graces all a must for this very involving and stretching role.

PERFECT TYPE-CASTING
£11,000
Are you a polished, capable PA/Sec. 25+ with good audio and WP skills, then this int Executive Search Co needs you. Superb offices and excellent benefits for the person with a persuasive telephone manner and discretion who wishes to be totally utilised.

COSMETICS
£10,500
Int house requires a Sales Services Co-ordinator 25+ for the toiletries division. Relevant retail exp and a knowledge of computers desirable together with an OND qualification. This is a superb opportunity to develop into a marketing role.

01-935 8235

KINGSWAY Temporary Staff Consultants

Stockbroker's Assistant
Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. is a leading American stockbroking and investment company based in the City. We now have a vacancy for a Stockbroker's Assistant.

Working for one stockbroker, you will start with basic secretarial duties as you learn about our business. You will be encouraged to take the New York Stock Exchange examinations and your role will develop as you do. Eventually you should be able to assist the broker in creating business.

As our clients are the most important part of our business, you should be smart and have good social and telephone skills. You should also be accurate, reliable and numerate, with good organisational abilities. No previous experience is required but you should be educated to at least A Level standard.

We are offering a competitive salary, with L16s of 75p a day, staff restaurant, free BUPA cover, 4 weeks holiday and season ticket loan.

Please write, enclosing your curriculum vitae and a short letter stating your present salary and telling us why you are interested in the post, to: Mrs. Elizabeth Bell, Personnel Department, Dean Witter Reynolds, 56 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 2BL.

No agencies.

DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.

SEC TO MD
£10,500
Highly prestigious retail client requires a smart Sec with at least 2 yrs experience as Director. Well. Long with excellent admin skills to the full a position that promises great interest, variety and challenge.

S.O.S.
£8,500
Marketing Co-ordinator requires Admin Assistant to help promote their new product range in the UK market. American city company. Co needs a high-energy, fast-paced person with some of humour to join their team. Computer background a plus. Get involved in research, road shows, some typing.

FASHION
£8,500
An experienced S.H. Sec is required for (international) Fashion House to provide full PA back up to Group MD. You'll be presentable, with a keen eye for detail and personality. You'll offer a good salary package including BUPA and discount on clothes.

OPPORTUNITY
£8,500
Search opportunity for a bright 20-25 year old (1 yr exp) with excellent SH/Typing skills to join the City merchant bank. Travel & interesting position involving Admin & Sec work at Chairman level. Excellent team. Home office, paid travel, LV's & 5 wks holiday.

CITY: 01-481 2345
WEST END: 01-938 2188

AMBITIOUS CAREER MINDED PA/SEC (30+)
£10,000
International Co. requires a well organised dedicated secretary to keep their Director's and general office in order. You will be responsible for all office administration, will be dealing with top international clients and will be required to become totally involved in the business development. In return you are offered a highly interesting and stimulating career with excellent future prospects. Please apply to Gaye Neville on 01-486 6717.

Alfred Marks Recruitment Consultants

LEGAL - ST. JAMES'S
We are a medium sized and friendly firm of solicitors and currently have vacancies for an experienced Corresponding Secretary to work for a young solicitor and a versatile Planning Secretary (WP Exp. preferred) who can handle a wide variety of work. We are offering attractive negotiable salaries, S.T.L., LV's, and twice yearly salary reviews together with prestige offices in the heart of St. James's.

Please Contact:
Helen A. Gray
Anahard Brown Martin & Nicholas
2 Duke Street, St. James's,
London SW1Y 6BL
Tel: 01-930 2366.

TRANSLATOR
English/German
Frankfurt DM Neg.
Our client, a leading German bank, requires a translator to be based in their head office in Frankfurt. As part of a team of translators, the candidate would be required to translate documents of a banking, economic or EDP nature between English and German.

Educated to degree level in either German or Economics, the ideal candidate should have English mother tongue with a perfect knowledge of German and possess relevant experience gained either as a translator or within a banking environment.

Please send a detailed Curriculum Vitae, stating salary expectations, to Alison McGilgan, Jonathan Wren International Ltd, 170 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4LX. Tel: (01) 623 1266.

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR
A creative environment
An international dimension
FRANKLIN MINT LIMITED is the British subsidiary of a multi-national direct marketing company dealing in a wide variety of art objects and collectibles - from porcelain and crystal to fine books and prints.

We are looking for an experienced Secretary to provide secretarial support to our Concept, Development and research team. The position calls for a confident and enthusiastic person with a flair for organisation, capable of working independently in an international environment. Good communication skills are essential in a position which will be responsible for maintaining close liaison between researchers and artists and our parent company in the U.S.A.

Our pleasant, modern offices, with free car parking facilities, are situated between Bromley and Croydon (S.E.6). As well as a salary of £8,500, we offer substantial Company benefits, including free membership of BUPA, life assurance and non-contributory pension.

Please write with full details of career and qualifications to:
Mrs. M.L. Gifford, Personnel Manager,
Franklin Mint Limited, 138 Bromley Road,
LONDON SE9 2XG.

BANKING
FRENCH
French speaking P.A./Secretary with flawless English, good English shorthand and word processing/personal computer experience, required by City merchant bank. We are looking for someone over 25, with experience as senior level, flexible, confident and willing to use their own initiative. You will be working for a French Executive Director in a busy office where some overtime (paid) should be expected. Up to £10,000 + benefits.

GERMAN:
German Speaking P.A./Secretary (25-35) with English and German shorthand, to assist General Manager of merchant banking arm of old established German bank. Varied duties, from organising meetings and travel, to looking after visitors, plus normal correspondence and liaison activities. The post would suit someone mature, calm and flexible with good experience at senior level. Around £13,000 + benefits.

SECRETARY CLASSICAL MUSIC
PolyGram Classics, responsible for the marketing and promotion of Deutsche Grammophon and Philips recorded product, is seeking a qualified and experienced Secretary.

Applicants, aged 21+, must have excellent skills. S/H 90+, T. 55+, an excellent telephone manner, general office skills and the ability to work in an organised manner whilst under pressure.

To apply, please send a detailed CV to Veronica Spicer, Personnel Officer, PolyGram Classics, 15 Saint George Street, London W1R 9DE, or telephone 01-499 9686, ext 381/476 for an application form.

(No Agencies)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
required to undertake varied secretarial and general duties in the office of the Dean of a Medical School specialising in Heart and Lung diseases.

Applicants should be self motivated, have competent shorthand and audio typing skills and enjoy personal contact with staff, students and patients. Word processing experience an advantage. Salary up to £8,092.

Applications from non-smokers should be sent to the Secretary, Cardiothoracic Institute, Brompton Hospital, Fulham Road, London SW3 6HT.
(Tel: 352 8121 Ext 4166)

MD's Secretary
Property Development N.W. London
The Managing Director of John Laing Development Limited requires an experienced Senior Secretary to become totally involved in the busy, fast moving world of property development.

Probably aged 35+, with sound secretarial skills (including shorthand and audio) and previous experience at senior level, you should be a good organiser and have the necessary confidence and maturity to cope with a challenging and demanding role. The ability to establish priorities and to work to deadlines are essential.

An attractive salary will be offered together with excellent benefits which include 5 weeks annual holiday, pension and life assurance schemes, subsidised restaurant, sports and social club facilities.

Please apply to:
Mrs M A Staines, Personnel Officer,
John Laing plc, Page Street, Mill Hill, London NW7 2ER.
Tel: 01-959 3836

PRIVATE SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Someone with experience and initiative needed to run busy private office covering many varied interests. Located close to Sloane Square. Flexible hours. Negotiable salary. 5 hours/day, 5 days/week.
Call 01-730 9305

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VERSATILE SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR TO £9,500 + BONUS
Small advertising agency close to Tower Bridge is looking for about four people rolled into one happy package. We see you as 50+ maybe returning after a family break. Well spoken and presented, confident, and able to use your own initiative.

Naturally we expect polished typing (W.P. training given if necessary), excellent organisational skills, and the ability to boss us around pleasantly. You won't mind taking the telephone calls, looking after stationery, and doing the afternoon rush jobs at once. In return, you'll be loved to pieces by us all.

Please call Jane Tiller on 01-251 2275 or send a brief C.V. to her at Juniper Wood and Partners Limited, 22 New Concordia Wharf, Mill Street, London, SE1 2NS.

ESTATE AGENTS SECRETARY
Busy Fulham and Kensington estate agents need an untappable, outgoing secretary with Word Processor knowledge and good typing skills. Must be able to cope with a full workload and look after our clients. Salary in the region of £8,500 p.a.

Please ring:
Richard Rawlings
Winkworth
01-731 3388
(NO AGENCIES)

Jonathan Wren International Ltd
Banking Consultants

FAST GROWING ADVERTISING AGENCY COVENT GARDEN
Two secretaries' salaries from £8,500++
Usual secretarial skills apply, including sense of humour and sense of fun to cope with hectic workload.
Would welcome C.V. and recent photograph.
Send to:
Diana Kelly,
41/44 Great Queen Street,
London WC2B 5AY.
POSITIVELY NO AGENCIES

TRILINGUAL PA £11,000 COVENT GARDEN
Small well established Financial Consultancy needs mature and capable PA/Sec. All round involvement with company PR, client liaison, administration, organisation. Fluent French and Spanish plus excellent SH/Typing. Age 30-40.

YOUNG PR SECRETARY
For successful West End Company. Needs good SH/Typing, ability to work under pressure, scope to get involved and work as team. Age c.23. Salary c.£9,000

WORK FOR A REAL HUMAN BEING?
The hard working, energetic and enigmatic M.D. of his own property company needs a P.A. He runs his friendly and expanding offices with total involvement and is looking for someone to care for him as he cares for his staff. Working from a secluded office in Kensington W8, there are general secretarial duties and a lot of 'out and about' work.

Preferred non-smoker and driver aged 30-45 with suitable experience. Please write with CV and current salary to BOX 880

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The very hub of the newspaper world. Exciting, varied admin orientated and character building.

PA Sec to MD £11,000+ PA Sec Executive office to £10,500
Junior Sec 18-20 to £8,500 Exec Receptionist with typing c£8,500
All PA positions require good communication and admin skills with excellent SH/typing and some WP experience.

Please call or send CV to Sue Sackwill, 01 734 8466.
Stockton Associates, 29 Glasshouse Street, W1. Appointed rec cons.

LAING

COVENT GARDEN
£12,000
Experienced senior audio legal secretary for partner in modern offices overlooking Piazza. WP experience and shorthand an advantage.
Tel Nicholas Squire 01 379 7083

£10,000
Experienced audio legal secretary for partner dealing in commercial litigation. Age 35+.
Tel: David Herben 01 379 7083.
NO AGENCIES

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS
We are always keen to interview candidates with excellent secretarial skills for varied temporary assignments in the West End.

Bi Lingual Secretary/PA
Swedish/English
The Swiss Associate of a UK-based international bank is setting up new offices in the West End and now requires a capable Secretary/PA - bi-lingual Swedish/English - to work at Director level.

As this position involves a great deal of private client contact, you will need to have plenty of initiative and flexibility as well as excellent secretarial skills. Ideally you will have gained experience within a banking or financial environment.

If you are looking for a challenging role, offering a competitive salary and a very attractive banking benefits package, telephone for an application form and further details to: Vivian Karam, on 01-238 6090 Ext 483. 2-6 Cannon Street, London EC4M 6GX.

COVENT GARDEN
£12,000
Experienced senior audio legal secretary for partner in modern offices overlooking Piazza. WP experience and shorthand an advantage.
Tel Nicholas Squire 01 379 7083

£10,000
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Tel: David Herben 01 379 7083.
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Tel: David Herben 01 379 7083.
NO AGENCIES

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

1 week, 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 4 WEEKS holiday pay per year PLUS...
 Bank Holiday pay, free word processor training, sick pay scheme and an excellent choice of interesting assignments.

BROOK STREET

Executive Secretary

Central London

circa £11,400 + substantial paid overtime

Arthur Andersen & Co. is an international firm of accountants employing some 28,000 people worldwide.

We are seeking to recruit a senior PA to work for the Managing Director of the European Tax Practice who is responsible for overall quality control of service and the direction and development of tax practices in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Based in London, you will be expected to provide an exceptional service which reflects the seniority of the Managing Director. This will involve the co-ordination of policies, procedures and information in the areas for which he has responsibilities, as well as acting as a liaison point for visiting partners from overseas. As the Managing Director travels extensively you must, in addition, ensure the smooth running of the office in his absence.

Successful candidates will be aged 26+, educated to 'A' level standard and have skills of 110wpm shorthand and 45wpm audio. Proven experience at a senior level in a large professional or commercial organisation is essential, as are your presentation and communication skills. The position is demanding, with overtime a regular feature, but in return for your commitment we can offer you a challenging career.

If you are interested, please send a detailed cv, enclosing a daytime telephone number to:

ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO

Mrs M. Hennessey, Recruiting Officer, Arthur Andersen & Co., 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2PS.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Financial Controller/Personal Accountant

c. £20,000

Our client is the Chairman of an international group with interests in the Middle East, Europe and the United States.

He is in the process of establishing his operational base in London, where he is seeking an adaptable and enthusiastic person to deal exclusively with areas of his personal financial activities.

These are by no means confined to London and the appointee can expect a reasonable amount of travel, particularly to the South of France.

Skills in office procedures and general accountancy are required with some emphasis on audit. An accounting qualification is essential and familiarity with computer usage is desirable. Candidates are likely to be in the age range 25 to 30 years. Salary level is about £20,000.

Resumes should be sent to the consultants advising on this appointment at the address below. All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The Welbeck Group Limited, Panton House, 25 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4EN.

The Welbeck Group Limited

ARE YOU A "PEOPLE PERSON" SECRETARY/PA

£9,500

Senior Secretary reporting to the Vice President Stearns Catalytic is an international Engineering Design and Construction Company with several international offices. The Vice President in London is responsible for the technical direction and administration of activities through Britain, Europe and the Middle East, involving a staff of about 100.

Your responsibilities will include a wide range of secretarial and administrative duties. Previous experience in an engineering environment is not necessary.

Applicants should be aged 25+ with shorthand/typing of 100/60 and word processing experience. You should have a mature and friendly personality, but most important of all is a flexible attitude and sense of humour.

In addition to the above salary we can offer an attractive benefits package which includes free private medical insurance, season ticket loan scheme and 4 weeks holiday.

Find out more by telephoning Christine Colson, Personnel Officer, Stearns Catalytic International Ltd., 48 Leicester Square, London WC2H 7LZ.

01 839 4377
(No Agencies please)

MEDIA - FINANCE - ADVERTISING - SALES - PERSONNEL

Pa To MD £11,500

A top calibre PA is required to assist the MD of this large and prestigious Merchant Bank. He is a young, very bright and obviously successful. This is a true PA role requiring commitment and talent. Skills: 120/60 Age: 29-35.

Venture £10,000

This smart, dynamic and very nice venture capital company needs an assistant. They offer the chance for REAL involvement in the 100% interesting and creative work in the City. No 9/11. Skills: Excellent typing Age: 20-30.

Television £9,000

Admin Assistant in fast, intellectual environment. People are hardworking but very friendly and have a good team environment to support them in the West End. Skills: Excellent typing Age: 20-30.

Design £8,000

A West End firm of designers and architects requires a secretary, an shorthand with 1-3 years of previous working experience. It is a friendly company where you will work at all levels including some administrative duties. Skills: Good typing Age: 19-25.

HAZEL STATION

8 Golden Square, London W1
Tel: 01-439 6021

CONSUMER P.R. ... £8,500

Our clients, an expanding P.R. agency in Covent Garden, are looking for several young secretaries to assist their account groups. The jobs are demanding and involving and require a high level of commitment and a flair for organising. You will attend press conferences and take notes during regular client meetings. We are looking for people with 'A' level education, aged c.20 who will fit into a young and busy atmosphere. 80/60.

BANKING £10,500

A well known and prestigious international bank is looking for a PA/Secretary for one of its top Directors. An excellent presentation is required for regular client meetings as well as a dedicated and professional working method. 90/60. Age c.24.

TM International Ltd
Secretarial Recruitment
50 Hans Crescent SW1
01-834 8555
01-834 8551

PROFESSIONAL SEC/PA

Young 'mother figure' required for two dynamic but wayward group company directors. Organise us, rule us and help us control and motivate a growing staff of 40 and rising. Efficiency without triplicate memos. Activity without fuss. Energy, dedication and expertise in delegation. The group ranges from computers to consumer protection via records and deodorants - a passionate interest in all these areas would be ideal (if not, we'll sell it to you). If you are the perfect PA/Secretary and would settle for £12,000 a year for now, phone us on our private line.

482 0469 or 482 4636

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

Leading Public Relations consultancy require a top receptionist/telephonist for its busy offices, near Fleet Street. They must be able to the rush of a busy office, and be used to deal with some of the country's leading businessmen and financiers. The reward, £8,000 p.a. and various other benefits. Contact:

Binns Cornwall & Partners
01-489 1441

Matured in Oak

to £11,500

Our client is a man of depth and vision - an innovative manager, with a superb record of achievement in international brand marketing. Now, as MD of one of the world's leading whisky companies, he seeks a high calibre PA to help him build on success. You will co-ordinate his life, handle problems in his absence, deal with your own correspondence etc. Senior-level experience is essential. Some French/Spanish and media/marketing background desirable. Skills 90/60. Age 25-40. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Gordon Yates Ltd.
35 Old Bond Street, London W1
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It's the little things that go into planning careers that make all the difference. Like a little time, a little thought, and a little trouble.

Diane Hilton heads our Secretarial Division. She will take time to discover exactly what a secretary wants from a career so that when the right opening comes along, she knows exactly who is right for it and why. If you are an executive secretary or a college leaver and are looking for a career rather than just another job, TALK TO CAREER DESIGN TODAY.

Karin Parnaby heads our Temporary Division. She offers you not only top rates, holiday pay and incentives but also the opportunity to use your skills and expertise within your choice of environment. If you are a PA, secretary with shorthand, audio or WP skills, a receptionist/telephonist or a bright graduate clerk/administrator currently available, TALK TO CAREER DESIGN TODAY.

Judy Adams heads our Media Division. She takes the trouble to evaluate each graduate's potential in the media marketplace and utilises her extensive contacts to offer you the widest choice in the media field. If you are of graduate calibre, have good communication skills and a positive desire to succeed, TALK TO CAREER DESIGN TODAY.

Why not come and talk to us first? You've nothing to lose but your old job, and nothing to gain except an exciting new career.

1 GROVELAND COURT, BOW LANE, LONDON EC4M 9EH
TELEPHONE: 01-489 0889

W1/SW1 SECRETARY £9,500 p.a.

International Management consultancy seeks an experienced, mature Secretary/Admin person for a very busy and interesting role. You should be a fast, accurate typist, skilled with WP equipment (we use WANG) enjoy hard work and like a tough but happy boss. You should also be skilled in the use of dictation equipment. Location: St James's Street, SW1. Please telephone:

Martin Lawless on Tel: 01-629 8070 or send a cv to him at Slide Consulting Group (UK) Ltd, Metro House, 58 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1 LD.

OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH A BEAUTIFUL PRODUCT IN OUR LONDON SHOWROOM

Josiah Wedgwood & Sons Limited require a Sales Secretary with responsibility to the Sales Manager and working closely with the Sales Team. 4 weeks holiday and staff discount. Salary negotiable. Please contact Mrs Jan Tapp on 486 5181.

Wedgwood
Josiah Wedgwood & Sons Ltd
32-44 Wigmore Street
London W1H 0HU

BI LINGUAL SECRETARY ITALIAN

Audio secretary with good written and spoken Italian required to work for International Law Firm WC2. Legal experience preferred. Salary £8,500. Please telephone Carole Kettner 01-242 2919

BOND STREET ART GALLERY

Requires responsible secretary. Good shorthand and typing essential. Pleasant working conditions. Salary to £10,000 depending on experience. Telephone 01-491 7408 ext 49

BUSY ARCHITECT/DIRECTOR

Of an expanding design company urgently requires a bright, enthusiastic PA, secretary, interesting and varied work. Excellent secretarial skills and WP essential. Car driver. Salary negotiable. Please write with CV to: Martin Designs Ltd, 4 Avenue Studios, Sydney Close, London SW3 6HW.

ENTHUSIASTIC SECRETARY REQUIRED

To join the team selling houses in busy Kensington Estate Agents. Help take instructions, arrange appointments etc efficient typing & moderate shorthand. RING SUSIE ON 01-727 6663

ESTATE AGENTS

Busy South Ken Office requires keen, young, well spoken sec with excellent office skills (no shorthand, but word processor experience). Good salary. Call Denise Gabriel 01-370-6781.

GRADUATE SECRETARY

Senior Partner in Corporate Finance Department of Lawrence Graham seeks well presented graduate or equivalent secretary, mid 20s for interesting work with P.A. content and high level client contact. Salary negotiable. Applications to Michael Richardson, Lawrence Graham, 50/51 Russell Square, WCI. Tel: 637 0651.

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

required for Yves Saint Laurent Menswear UK Ltd. Must be fully experienced on Viceroy switchboard. Excellent working conditions and top salary paid for right applicant. Please apply: Mrs E J Lewis, 01 637 9891.

TYPIST/ADMINISTRATOR FOR EXPANDING IBM RECRUITMENT AGENCY

You will be 20+ perhaps with 'A' levels but more importantly have good sales typing skills (minimum 50 wpm). Training will be given on WP. The ability to work as part of a team and under pressure is essential, so you can expect a salary and conditions commensurate with your secretarial experience. Contact: Janie Bolton on 01-499 4566. Hatched Ltd, 18 James Street, London W1N 3EN

ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN CITY OFFICE EXCELLENT SALARY

Alexander Howden Ltd are a rapidly expanding company within the Alexander Howden Group. Due to internal reorganisation a vacancy has arisen for a Personal Assistant/Secretary to the Chairman.

You will ideally be aged 30+ and, in addition to proven experience at this level, have the desire and ambition to be a key member of a successful team. The ability to work under pressure whilst retaining a sense of humour is a pre-requisite, as is previous experience on a word processor. Cross training onto an IBM Displaywriter will be provided.

If you have excellent skills, previous city experience and are committed to being successful then please write with full career history to:-

Mrs Wendy Garrett, Alexander Howden Group, 8 Devonshire Square, LONDON EC2M 4PL.

Alexander Howden Group Ltd

SENIOR GROUP SECRETARY CITY £10,000 AGE: 22+

We are a national firm of Chartered Accountants looking for a well-spoken and well-presented Group Secretary to provide secretarial and administrative support to a team of Senior Managers in our busy Audit Department. You will have had experience working at senior level, with a good academic background and fast and accurate audio typing. You will have proven organisational skills and be able to communicate with people at all levels. Word processing training will be given. Non-smoker preferred.

We offer attractive working conditions in modern offices, 2 minutes from Liverpool Street Station. Hours 9.15 - 5.15. Benefits include 21 days holiday, 30p LVs per day, pension scheme and STL. Applications, with full cv, to Kim West, 246 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4PB or telephone 01-377 1000 for further details. (No agencies)

SPRING FEVER ON OUR TEMPORARY TEAM £6.20p.h.

Our busy team of professional temporary secretaries are always in demand, and it has established an excellent reputation over the years. If you are a first class, senior level secretary with speeds of 100/60, 2 years Director level experience in central London, and proficient word processing skills, we can offer you an interesting variety of temporary secretarial assignments and the best rates in London.

Our skilled temps are all paid the same rates and are frequently offered the opportunity of temping into a permanent position. If you would like to temp at the level you deserve and be positively appreciated, please telephone for an appointment or a factsheet: 01-434 4512 (West End) 01-588 3535 (City)

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR c£8,500 SW1

A small expanding firm of recruitment consultants seek to appoint an experienced and competent secretary, who will take charge of the office administration. Assisted by two staff their duties will cover a wide range of tasks including WP basic bookkeeping and advertising. Applicants should have good secretarial skills (no sh) as well as a sense of responsibility and initiative. Apply in writing.

ANTONY DUNLOP
18 JMWYN STREET LONDON SW1Y 4HP
TEL: 01-439 6171 @ PICCADILLY

DRAKE PERSONNEL

HOTEL SALES AND MARKETING £3,000
The successful and now expanding hotel group is currently seeking a top PA to assist their Sales and Marketing Director in his very important role. This position will involve you directly in all areas of prep for the hotel as well as being the Senior PA and having to supervise and handle all the other administrative requirements. Your excellent shorthand and typing together with at least 2 years sound experience will qualify you for this demanding position. Call DRAKE PERSONNEL 01-734 0911



Handwritten Arabic text: مكتبة في لندن

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

PA WITH PROSPECTS to £9,700
 This famous British communications company is a world leader, and is currently expanding in both the domestic and international markets. The Marketing Director is right at the heart of this activity and offers the ideal position for a PA who really likes to get involved. He travels frequently, and will expect you to stand in for him when he is away. Skills 100/50, plus WP.

city city city city city city city

College Leavers
 Its Spring and foremost in your thoughts is what you're going to do when you leave college. As experienced consultants we can tell you what sort of jobs are available and help you decide which type of job will suit you best. We have many opportunities in areas such as Television, Publishing, Design, Stockbroking and Banking. Take advantage of our expertise and come in and discuss your future with us.

HAZELL STATION
 8 Golden Square, London W1.
 Tel: 01-439 6021.

Elizabeth Hunt
CHEQUE THIS OUT £10,500
 A major firm of merchant bankers seek a secretary to their international lending division. You'll enjoy regular client contact and a full PA role. You should be able to prioritise your day, work very much on your own initiative and run the office smoothly. Benefits include mortgage subsidy.

COMPUTER FUTURE £10,500
 An international research organisation seek a well groomed, outgoing PA to a partner. You'll organise meetings, set up client presentations and build up a knowledge of his client list. A willingness to learn about computers and new technology would be encouraged. 60 wpm Audio typing needed. Superb benefit package.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
 23 College Hill London EC4 0F240 3551

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/PA
Required for Chairman of International Trading Company

The Chairman needs a dedicated PA, over 30, with maturity, confidence and first class organisational skills for this demanding but rewarding position.

The position involves great responsibility, long hours both during the week and at weekends and the requirement to travel abroad at short notice.

The secretarial content will vary, but will not rise beyond 50%.

This is an outstanding opportunity for the right person who is willing to sacrifice leisure time for genuine career prospects. Starting salary is circa £15,000.

Reply to **BOX A42**, c/- Times Newspapers, P O Box 484, Victoria St, London E1.

Don't miss this opportunity.

Don't waste your time looking for the best temporary secretarial jobs in London. They're right here at MacBlain Nash. The top positions, plus all the advantages you'll get as a Privilege Card holder and member of the MacBlain Nash Club. Pick up the telephone and call Victoria Martin now.

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Today's best booking.
 WP Secretary for long term booking in Mktg Dept of international oil company.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR
S.W. LONDON - NEW MALDEN

A self-motivated, lively and capable Secretary is needed to take charge of a varied and often heavy workload in the Marketing Group at the New Malden office of a major U.S. multinational company manufacturing high speed diesel engines.

The successful applicant will provide secretarial and administrative support to the Area Director, Africa/Middle East, and will also be expected to make a positive contribution to our small and friendly Marketing team. Opportunities exist within the Group for further development.

We require:-

- Excellent secretarial skills, including audio.
- An interest and willingness to master the latest office technology.
- Good organisational ability.
- Confidence and the capacity to work calmly under pressure and to tough deadlines.

If you meet our exacting specifications, we can offer you a competitive salary, excellent working environment and the opportunity to learn new skills.

Please send a detailed C.V. to:-

Chris Sage,
CUMMINS ENGINE COMPANY LTD.,
 46-50 Coombe Road,
 New Malden,
 Surrey KT3 4QL.

Cummins is a equal opportunities employer.

DRIVE AND CONFIDENCE
£10,000

If you are ready for a positive new career move you must demonstrate your versatility in handling Telephone Sales situations with a natural flair and enthusiasm to guarantee success. Full training given to a candidate (20's, 30's) who has a sound office background with an ability to type and spell accurately. High financial rewards and generous benefits are yours for the picking!

Call **588 5081**

MIDDLETON JEFFERS
 RECRUITMENT LTD.

NATO-BRUSSELS
 requires (m/f)

experienced secretarial staff

Age limit: 21-30; □ required speeds: 45 wpm typing and 90 wpm shorthand; □ word processing experience desirable; □ knowledge of French is an advantage; □ good salary net of income tax.

Write with detailed curriculum vitae to: Recruitment Officer, NATO, 1110 Brussels, Belgium.

Only those candidates considered suitable will receive a reply.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICAL SECRETARY/P.A.
c £11,000 p.a.

This challenging position in our Test Tube Baby Unit will shortly be available. Applications invited from Senior Medical Shorthand/Audio Secretaries, with proven organisational and supervisory skills. Previous Gynaecological experience is essential. This post involves considerable patient contact and therefore, a pleasant, friendly and helpful personality is required as is tact and diplomacy.

The Hospital offers excellent working conditions and a generous benefit package.

For an application form please telephone the Personnel Dept. on 01 586 5959 ext. 2710/2706.

Humana Hospital Wellington
 Wellington Place London NW1 6LL

Elizabeth Hunt
GONE TO PRESS £9,000

Join this large and successful public relations consultancy as secretary to a busy account team. You will enjoy extensive contact with clients and the media and should be well organised and able to work very much on your own initiative. Beautiful offices and 5 weeks holidays. 65 wpm Typing and previous WP experience needed.

RESEARCH £10,000

Our client, a major international research consultancy seeks a well organised, outgoing secretary to two top executives. You should enjoy a busy team atmosphere and have 90/60 skills. Beautiful offices and good benefits.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
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With attractive openings in a variety of companies: advertising, publishing, computers and the world of theatre, we can use your skills to their best advantage.

Temporary assignments with a view to permanent positions are also available. For an honest opinion of what we can offer you, call:

Judi Hutton
 or **Lucy Arnold**
 on 01-629 8863

Elizabeth Hunt
SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST
to £10,000

An international communications company seeks a young, socially confident secretary to be based in their beautiful reception area. You'll greet all visiting VIP's and provide secretarial support to their managing director. Benefits include early salary review, 60 wpm typing and rusty shorthand needed.

SOCIAL SECRETARY
to £9,000

The Chairman of a famous game company seeks a young, socially confident secretary to look after his many social engagements from replying to invitations to shopping at Harrods. You'll be based at his luxurious Belgrave house, 90/50 skills needed.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
 23 Bedford Street London WC2 0F240 3551

THE WORK SHOP
Video & Film
£8,500

This is an excellent opening in a young and lively environment, with this international video/film co. Working as part of a small, informal team in their cable TV section you will help to organise contracts, correspondence and major deals.

Benefits include free video library, private screenings & free health club. Good typing essential. Age 20+. Please call 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants

EXPERIENCED SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

International company based in new offices in SW1 require an experienced and responsible Secretarial Assistant (age 28-45) for their Marketing Manager. This is an interesting position requiring excellent shorthand and typing skills (100+/60), WP knowledge, good educational background and a willingness to become wholly involved in the operational side of the division.

Salary £9,500 plus 10% Bonus, BUPA, Life Insurance and Pension Scheme. 25 days holiday. Hours 9 - 5.

Please apply in writing enclosing C.V. to:
Mrs J Mountain
INTERNATIONAL GOLD CORPORATION
 15 Carlton Gardens
 London SW1Y 5AE

(NO AGENCIES)

EXHIBITION ORGANISER
to £8,500

Our client, a very successful firm of exhibition organisers, seeks a bright, confident person to train in all aspects of the business. You'll enjoy constant contact with clients and should be free to travel to UK conferences on occasions. An 'A' level education, 50 wpm typing ability and previous word processing experience needed.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
 23 Bedford Street London WC2 0F240 3551

PA TO A GENIUS
Salary £13,000

Personal Assistant to the Chairman of a major Property Group. Highly demanding and occasionally pressurised role for an extra special, mature and diplomatic Secretary with total confidence in their skills and ability.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PERSONNEL
Salary £8,250

Liaise with clients, media and general public - handle recruitment responsibilities and training programmes for this West End PR Company. Attend and organise Press Conferences and be responsible for all entertainment duties for the Company. An excellent attitude along with good typing and WP skills are necessary.

CITY RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
 38 HOUNDSDITCH
 LONDON EC3A 7DL
 01-623 4588

CAROLINE KING

*** PROPERTY c.£10,000 + exc. bens ***
 Enjoy working for a boss who delegates & lets you get on with it. The Investment Partner of the superior W. End property firm is looking for a well organised, self-motivated secretary who wants involvement in their job. Is a good listener/organiser and can handle some office management.

*** CAREER SEC - BANKING ***
*** c.£10,000 + mortgage ***

This small city investment bank are looking for a bright secretary who would ultimately like to secure an admin role. You will be given training in Exchange Settlements, Loans Administration, Stock Exchange Settlements etc. Maturity, common sense & 90/55 skills essential.

please telephone: **01-499 8070**
 46 Old Bond Street London W1.

CAROLINE KING SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS

Back To The Future
£10,000

Highly dynamic opening for a business-orientated live wire, as Sec/PA to Chairman in this Futures Market operation. In addition to co-ordinating diary, travel etc you will play an admin role, directly liaising with new clients; checking references; and daily tracking price movements in stock and commodity indices. Dress is informal; numeracy accuracy and motivation essential. Good keyboard skills (50wpm plus) requested. Age 23-30. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

Gordon Yates Ltd.
 35 Old Bond Street, London W1
 (Recruitment Consultants)

PA/SECRETARY

Required for busy chief executive of company publishing market-leading travel journals. We are looking for a bright and experienced self-starter able to work at senior level on own initiative. Excellent shorthand needed as is ability to deal with people and cope under pressure with anything from promotional events to filing systems. Lots of hard work but, hopefully, lots of fun too. Location Victoria.

Starting salary around £9,000.

For further details phone:

Paul Mooman
01 821 1155.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
c£12,000

Exciting opportunity for an intelligent, articulate person to work for the Deputy Chairman of a highly successful, rapidly expanding company. Responsibilities include liaison with high level executives and major financial figures, handling presentations social functions and P.R. activities in addition to general P.A. duties and personnel matters. Skills of 100/60 wpm, smart presentation, 'A' levels and experience in this field essential. Age 27-33.

434 4512
Crone Corkill
 Recruitment Consultants
 99 Regent Street

THE WORK SHOP
Records & Music
£10,000

This is a lovely growing company - set up by a well-known and successful full singer to promote both his own work and that of a new generation of recording artists. You will work closely with both him and his manager in all aspects, liaising with clients, handling interviewing etc. You should be professional, with excellent skills (100 wpm) and good education. Age 25-32. Please telephone 01-493 1232.

Recruitment Consultants

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£8,000

It's time to come alive! Our client, a distinctly up-market wine company, urgently seeks a socially confident young secretary to assist in hotel/resaurant promotions. As part of a small, elite team you will help to run wine-tastings, in-house lunches and handle VIP client liaison. You should be bright, lively, with lots of personality. Skills 80/50. Age 21+. Salary subject to early review. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

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No hassles. No let-downs. Just plain, simple, high grade temping.

A tasteful package of top jobs, elite rates and thoroughly professional service.

If you have sound skills and experience, you should be talking to 'The Work Shop'.

Telephone Sue Cooke on 01-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants

The Polytechnic of Central London
Secretary/Personal Assistant

The Head of the School of Computer Science requires a Secretary/PA to carry out a full range of secretarial and administrative duties for a busy department. Applicants should preferably be graduates with secretarial qualifications and some secretarial experience. Word-processing knowledge would be useful, but full training will be given to the successful applicant.

Salary (MG12): £7308 - £8532 inclusive. Annual leave: 26 days

For an application form telephone 01-637 1912 or write to the Personnel Office, PCL, 309 Regent Street, London W1R 6AL.

Closing date: 25 April 1986.

PCL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY

Seeks mature executive secretary. Top office skills required plus good French and a pleasant personality. Arabic would be a useful advantage. West End location. Attractive remuneration package.

Please ring:
01-235 8416

SABIC
MARKETING SERVICES LTD
PA/Secretary
£9,000 + Benefits

Sabic Marketing Services Ltd, an affiliate of Saudi Basic Industries Corporation, requires a PA/Secretary (25-35) with excellent secretarial skills, WP, good presentation, poise and initiative. Chemicals experience an advantage. Knowledge of Arabic desirable.

Please forward detailed CV (with telephone No) to:
SABIC Marketing Services Ltd
 Portland House, Stag Place
 London SW1E 5DA.
 (No agencies, please)

TELEPHONE SALES REPRESENTATIVE

The Conde Nast Publications Limited, Publishers of VOGUE, HOUSE & GARDEN, TATLER and BRIDES AND SETTING UP HOME, are looking for a young, bright and enthusiastic person to join their Classified Sales team. Experience preferred but not essential.

If you are interested please write (enclosing full Curriculum Vitae) to:

Miss Barbara Timm,
 Personnel Director,
 Vogue House,
 Hanover Square,
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GROW WITH THE COMPANY
IN CHISWICK

This is a unique opportunity to join a new, but already successful, consultancy company advising on interior design, office systems, furniture and new technology. You will be involved in all aspects of this small company working with the owner in his private house. A sound secretarial background, word processing experience, flexibility and self-motivation are essential requirements. Non-smoker. Sal. c£11,000.

Please ring:

434 4512
Crone Corkill
 Recruitment Consultants
 99 Regent Street, W1.

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If you are dynamic, self-motivated, with initiative & enthusiasm, and drive a good car - letting high class furnished properties in Central London could be for you.

CALL PAMELA BEREND NOW
01-722 7101
ANScombe & RINGLAND

Secretary
To a Director of The Spanish Promotion Centre

The Spanish Government's export promotion office in London requires a secretary for one of its directors. Working knowledge of Spanish, good standards of typing and shorthand, numeracy, shorthand, well organised, flexible attitude and willing manager all necessary. Salary £8,000 p.a. Four weeks holiday a year. Salary negotiable according to skill and experience.

Candidates please write with CV to:
The Administrative Director
The Spanish Promotion Centre
 London W1.

HIGH ON VARIETY
c£12,000

Are you looking for a job which involves more organisation and admin than secretarial work? If you are 25-28, with a degree or 'A' levels plus a sense of humour, enthusiasm and drive, the International Personnel Director or a successful investment management co with lovely offices near Mayfair, needs your help. You will become involved in a variety of areas but sec duties of 100-60 (mins) are also required. City or financial experience helpful. Ample opportunity to use your initiative. Please telephone:

588 3535
Crone Corkill
 Recruitment Consultants
 18 Eldon Street EC2

CITY PR **£8,500**

A very famous name manufacturing company seeks a secretary to their head of Public Relations. You'll enjoy constant liaison with the press and should be a good organiser as you help set up regular press receptions, and enjoy a fast moving, informal atmosphere. Excellent benefits offered including bonus and gym facilities. 90/50 skills and previous word processing experience needed.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
 23 College Hill London EC4 0F240 3551

YOU ARE WANTED!

With your top shorthand & WP skills; in the companies you want, doing the job you want, for the rates of pay you want and the appreciation you deserve - often leading to an excellent Permanent appointment. Pay in the current week!

Coffee ready - welcome!

01-589 8807
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SHORTHAND SECRETARY
£9,000 pa

Do you want a new challenge? Come and work for firm of friendly Chartered Accountants who have kept their sense of humour despite everything.

Accurate typist essential. Olivetti electronic typewriter.
 Telephone Jeffrey Zinkin on 01-262 2641

FILM PREMIERE **£8,500**

Our client, closely connected to the movie industry, seeks a young secretary to their vice president. He is very pleasant and wants to involve his PA. You'll need first class organising ability in order to set up social events and regular in-house meetings. Excellent prospects and free cinema tickets. 100/50 skills needed.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
 18 Grosvenor Street London W1 0F240 3551

SECRETARY/PA to CHAIRMAN

Chairman of venture capital company requires enthusiastic and competent Secretary/PA with good skills and organisational ability to assist him and a Director. Located in a high quality office in St James Street this is an interesting and challenging opportunity with excellent remuneration prospects. CVs to Mrs B Davies, 26 St James Street, London SW1A 1HA

SECRETARY/TYPIST (No SH)

A well-groomed, flexible lively Secretary with good typing skills and WP experience or willingness to learn is required by a small, friendly Head Office of an organisation which owns and operates historic residential properties. Duties will include 50% administration and 50% secretarial and the offices are close to Covent Garden.

We offer a non-smoker a negotiable salary of £8,000+. Please apply with CV to:-

Mr. R. D. Braddy,
 Country Homes Association,
 41 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JL.

CONFERENCES
to £11,000

Highly respected firm of conference organisers based in SW1 needs an administrative PA to assist their dynamic Managing Director. You will become involved in the running of the company and your responsibilities will include correspondence, reports, assisting with programmes, some involvement in the conference side as well as producing full secretarial support (80-60wpm). Smart appearance, good educational background and a C.V. comment and flexible approach necessary. Please call:

434 4512
Crone Corkill
 Recruitment Consultants
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KINGSTON PA £10,000
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RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY 1/2

When Bagnor Manor, near Newbury, Berkshire, was mentioned in the Domesday Book...

was completely remodelled, the landscape designer Lanning Eoper was employed to reform the garden...

At a time when the emphasis always seems to be on American property investment in Britain...

Buy back a bit of the colonies

...ranging urban-development plan backed by Governor Thomas Keane. The property for sale is new to the market...

Miller says that some of the apartments are occupied, which leaves their value at less than the vacant-possession value...

Michael Biddle, who conducts the firm's auctions in New York, commented that he was looking forward to reversing the property buying trend...

CW

It comes with a captain's curio

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner described West Ashby House, at West Ashby, near Horncastle, Lincolnshire...

The house has kept some period features, including a fine, carved-oak staircase and a carved doorway...

room, main bedroom suite and four further bedrooms

The medieval chantry at Canterbury where followers of the Black Prince pray for his place in heaven has come to the market...

A fine Regency house in the Royal Crescent at Brighton, which faces the English Channel, is for sale at £220,000 through Fox and Sons...

a self-contained flat, with a splendid drawing room on the first floor with a balcony looking out to sea.

The Priory at Awre, Newnham on Severn, Gloucestershire, stands on the banks of the River Severn and has an early sight of the Severn bore as it floods past.

Built of brick and stone under a Welsh slate roof, the house is set in five acres of gardens and paddocks, and is for sale at £180,000 through Hampton and Sons...

PROPERTY BUYERS' GUIDE COUNTRY PROPERTIES

Luxury Retirement Flats ...in beautiful settings Delightful new one and two bedroom retirement homes with caring supervision - fitted to the highest standards.

Advertisement for Retirement Flats at St. Johns Meadow, Church Hill Court, Cunningsham Court, and Laurel Court. Price from £28,950.

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Advertisement for Andrew Grant Chartered Surveyors, Kings Lea, Kemerton. Contact: 01452 8222.

NORTH COTSWOLDS

Advertisement for North Cotswolds property, Bourton-on-the-Water. Contact: 01452 8222.

Lane Fox & Partners Rylands

Advertisement for North East Hampshire and Hampshire - Nr Alton properties. Contact: 01493 8222.

HORSTED KEYNES, WEST SUSSEX

Advertisement for Horsted Keynes, West Sussex property. Contact: 01424 8222.

PETER RAPSON CHARTERED SURVEYOR

Advertisement for Peter Rapson Chartered Surveyor, Marlborough. Contact: 01452 8222.

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Advertisement for Berkshire, Near Newbury property. Contact: 01493 8222.

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Advertisement for Alfred Alpine Homes, featuring Baymans Wood and other properties. Contact: 01493 8222.

Advertisement for Mortgages and Property Wanted. Contact: 01493 8222.

FOOTBALL: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS SPELL OUT THE PRICE OF AVERTING A BREAKAWAY

FIFA place a block on Mexico final sides

The World Cup sides will be barred from playing official matches in Mexico, against clubs or other national teams, from April 30. In their latest official circular...

Struggling to raise their caps

Jeremy Charles, Oxford United's Welsh international forward, is being treated for a groin injury...

Super League fear recedes as clubs back reform plan

The third and fourth division clubs have taken further steps to avert the growing threat of a breakaway by the first division...

Hoeness makes a welcome return

Geneva (AP) - West German midfielder player who faces Switzerland today as part of a World Cup warm-up series...



The Italian club Internazionale announced yesterday that they had signed Daniel Passarella (above), the Argentinean sweeper...

West Germany has won 29 and tied five of its 43 games against Switzerland. The last Swiss victory was 3-1 at Frankfurt in 1956.

England wives will fly to World Cup camp

England's World Cup preparations in Colorado Springs are likely to include a flying visit by wives and girlfriends...

Monday's results

THIRD DIVISION: Derby County 2, Gillingham 1. CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 1, Huddersfield 1...

GOLF: STORY OF AN AUSTRALIAN'S UNFULFILLED PROMISE

Norman passes but fails to graduate with honours

Greg Norman has surprisingly become the least successful player of an elite group from the European tour class of the 1970s who are now playing their trade with startling success.

Langer tops new rankings

Bernhard Langer, of West Germany, who defends his US Masters title in Augusta this week, and Severiano Ballesteros, of Spain, twice winner of that event...

Experience is the key in Feeney's title bid

Jobo Feeney, the 28-year-old veteran from Hartlepool, soldiers on at the Royal Albert Hall tonight when he meets Robert Dickie, of Swansea...

Castle kings ring in the new

Frank Maloney, aged 27, and Vince Heckman, aged 22, threw back the night watchmen by announcing yesterday their intention of bringing over faces to British boxing this year...

Game postponed

Bradford's third division home game tonight with Darlington has been postponed because of an outbreak of influenza in the visitors' camp.

RACKETS

Gracey and Smith stretched

Richard Gracey and Martin Smith, the Old Tombridgians who were five times amateur doubles champions, reached the quarter-finals of the Clifton open doubles championship...

TENNIS

Age is no barrier to Miss Hill

Alison Hill, runner-up last week for the under-16 title, fought all the way before winning her first-round match yesterday in the Prudential British junior hardcourt championships at Wimbledon.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

MULTI-PARTY LEAGUE: Caermeron v Mossley, Moracecum v Hyde, South Liverpool v Oswestry.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES: ALPHE GALLERY, 70 South Audley Street, London W1A 1AA. NEW ART CENTRE, 41, Goswell Road, London EC1A 3DF.

ON THE MOVE

Jan Berger, Slovak Prague's Czechoslovakian international midfielder player, yesterday joined the Swiss first division club, FC Zurich, on a three-year contract.

FOR THE RECORD

BRITISH LEAGUE: Liverpool 2, Derby 1. HANDBALL: BRITISH LEAGUE: Great Dane 21, Kirby 17.

ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICA: National League: Chicago Blackhawks 3, St Louis Blues 1. Philadelphia Flyers 5, Washington Capitals 3.

CINEMAS

CAMDEN PALAZO 455 2645 (1000 seats). SELECTIVE 111 (1000 seats). THEATRE 111 (1000 seats).

Today's television and radio programmes Edited by Jane Henderson and Peter Daville

BBC 1
6.00 Cee-fax
6.50 Breakfast Time news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. Weather at 8.55. Local news, weather and sport at 8.57, 7.25, 7.57, 8.27, 8.57, 9.27 and 9.57. Today's papers at 8.57.

TV-AM
6.15 Good Morning Britain with Anne Diamond and Nick Owen news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55. Local news, weather and sport at 6.57, 7.25, 7.57, 8.27, 8.57, 9.27 and 9.57. Pop video at 7.55.

ITV LONDON
8.25 Thames news headlines followed by Once Upon a Time. Animated series about development of modern day London.

BBC 2
6.55 Open University Technology: Electric Money
9.00 World Bowls Midlands Bank World Indoor Pairs Championship introduced by David Ikin

CHANNEL 4
2.15 These Lordships' House a repeat of last night's highlights.
2.30 Film: Member Last Night (1936) Comedy thriller: a party on Long Island

CHOICE
we are reminded of those (never silenced by the sales talk of the merchants of death. More vividly than any documentary I have seen for years, Munro's two films have exposed the sham in the military's boast that, thanks to the nuclear deterrent, the world has enjoyed 40 years of peace.

CHOICE (cont)
Peter Daville
shattered bodies in MOD, thought only talk of military strategy and budgets and mar-Servicewives, and spying that operates under the auspices of defence intelligence and - an astonishing disclosure - British stashes getting beaten up by the Russians.

Radio 2
On medium wave. For VHF stereo, see Radio 1.
News on the Hour. Headlines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30. Sports Desk at 6.55am, 7.55, 8.55 and 9.55. (All times GMT)

CONCERTS
BARBICAN HALL 6.00-8.00pm
6.00-8.00pm. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras.

OPERA & BALLET
COLISEUM 8.30-10.45pm
8.30-10.45pm. The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The Barber of Seville.

THEATRES
ADELPHI 8.00-11.00pm
8.00-11.00pm. The National Theatre. The Merchant of Venice.

THEATRES (cont)
ALBERT 8.00-11.00pm
8.00-11.00pm. The National Theatre. The Merchant of Venice.

THEATRES (cont)
ALBERT (cont)
8.00-11.00pm. The National Theatre. The Merchant of Venice.

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THEATRES (cont)
ALBERT (cont)
8.00-11.00pm. The National Theatre. The Merchant of Venice.



Charles Aznavour on Channel 4, at 10.00pm

ENTERTAINMENTS

A large grid of small advertisements for various entertainment venues, including theatres, concert halls, and clubs. Each ad typically lists the name of the venue, the time of the performance, and the name of the performer or production.

Souness steps up and stays down to earth

By Hugh Taylor

Graeme Souness, the Scotland captain, yesterday accepted the most coveted but most intimidating of the country's football jobs with a cool confidence which must have reassured the directors of Glasgow Rangers FC that they have ended their search for the man to make the club great again with a master stroke.

In contrast to the all too familiar "over the moon" jargon of the modern manager, Souness, in confirming that he is to be the player-manager at Ibrox, talked in the club's dignified Blue Room to a packed Press conference with the assurance of a practised lecturer.

He struck the right note at once. After a short speech from the Rangers' chief executive, David Holmes, who said they had found a manager of "poise, personality and class" he opened the door to allow Souness, in true Hollywood fashion, to burst in.

But anyone who thought the latest recruit to the new trend in football management would be dressed in extravagant, modern gear was disappointed. The imposing Souness, who has three more games to play for Sampdoria before he joins Rangers, does indeed look like an Italian film star, tanned and handsome, but he wore the sober blue blazer, grey flannels and red, white and blue club tie of Rangers to be every inch a true blue in the old Ibrox tradition.

He was at ease from the start. "What about your macho moustache?" was the first impertinent question —

highly disciplined Rangers have a rule that any facial adornments must be shaved off. "Ah," smiled Souness. "I have it protected in my contract."

While Rangers' directors are undoubtedly dazzled by the charisma of one of the world's great footballers, not all the Rangers supporters are of the opinion that Souness is the man to restore the club's fortunes. Many feel that he has no experience of management and little knowledge of the game in Scotland.

Souness deftly fielded that

More football, page 38

one. "I am new to management and little did I expect to start the career I have always dreamed of with such a big club. I know I will make mistakes, but I don't think that they will be big ones."

He had the Rangers' supporters among the ranks in front of him purring when he said of the club: "We — a nice early touch — are second only to Manchester United and are much bigger than even Liverpool, Everton or Spurs, and it is my job to make us the greatest club in the land."

He promised the Rangers' followers that some of the biggest playing names in the game will be brought to Ibrox and was courageous enough to put his head on the block when, inevitably, the burning topic which has bedevilled Rangers for more than a

century was raised.

"Will you sign a Catholic player?" There was no humour in his reply. "How could I possibly have taken this job if I was not allowed to sign any player I wanted? How could I have gone home to my wife, Danielle, who is a Catholic, and told her I was unable to take on a good player because of his religion?"

Many felt that if Souness does bring a Catholic to Rangers that will be more important for the image of the club than winning the European Cup. Souness's honesty was appealing. "Of course I can't promise success," he said. "Of course I would like to follow in the footsteps of my friend, Kenny Dalglish, and do as well in management as he has so far, but don't forget that mine is a far more difficult job than Kenny's."

Although Souness has for years lived glamorously at the top, revelling, he said, in the sunshine and gaiety of Italy, he is looking forward to working in the less exotic setting of Glasgow. "I'm a Scot," he said. "And I will be glad to return home."

He added that there will be no flamboyance in his managerial style. "To me the great managers were all down to earth, Bill Nicholson, Bob Paisley and Joe Fagan. I hope some of their talent rubs off on me. But what I seek is the happy medium, for the most difficult part, as player-manager, will be equating being one of the boys with not being one of the boys."

CRICKET

Influence of Gower tells as Gooch heads for Antigua

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad

Each morning since last Saturday Graham Gooch has been on the tennis court below my hotel room by 6.30, having a mostly base-line duel with Bob Willis, the team's assistant manager. They were there again yesterday, and unless I am much mistaken Gooch's mind was no more on his forehand drives and backhand passes than on the obsession which has been preoccupying him for most of the tour.

In persuading Gooch not to go home in a huff, David Gower is said to have played his best innings on the tour. Gooch was evidently more sympathetic to an appeal from the captain on behalf of the team than he had been to the official line from Lord's.

He came round in the end when the official statement was made to contain a request that Gooch's position should

be interpreted correctly. In other words, neither intentionally nor in any other way, was he giving best to Mr Lester Bird, Antigua's Foreign Minister.

His mission successfully completed, Donald Carr, the secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board, flew back to London last night. With him was Peter Willey, England's wicket-keeper, suffering from a recurrence of an old knee injury which would have kept him out of action until the team all go home next week. Gating, being available again, Willey would have been unlikely anyway to play in Friday's fifth and final Test match.

Carr had followed lunch with a game of golf with Gooch and Gating. Everyone

is delighted by Gooch's decision, as I am sure he will be himself when he has had time to reflect on it. All that remains now is for him to come up with the best of all replies to Mr Bird — a hundred.

It has been quite a week for delicate side-issues concerning the tour, for while Mr Carr came to mediate with Gooch, Tony Brown went to Antigua yesterday, ahead of the main party and in company with Ian Botham, to umpire the first reunion between Botham and his wife, Kathy, since Sunday's "revelations" about the cricketer's private life. I am not sure what Law 42 of the Marriage Guidance Council's handbook has to say about "fair and unfair play," but Brown is a man of the world and has practice as a reconciliator after Monday's day-long meeting with Gooch.

HOCKEY

Art of one-upmanship by Potter

From Sydney Friskin Karachi

Great Britain 2
Australia 2

Great Britain salvaged a point with a goal six minutes before the end of this match in the Champions Trophy tournament here yesterday. With one match to play against India, Britain has a chance of winning the bronze medal.

In the first eight minutes Australia forced four short corners, two of which led to

scuffles in front of goals. The Australian defence tumbled under an onslaught and the British took the lead in the twentieth minute.

Leman sent Bhaura racing down the left flank and his centre was picked up by Batchelor, who scored at the second attempt. Eight minutes later Britain could have been two goals ahead. Leman following up to hit a post after Snowden had saved from Kerley.

A minute before the interval

Taylor obstructed Patch to concede a penalty stroke, which Birmingham converted to send the teams into the interval on equal terms.

Nine minutes after the resumption of play Australia took the lead, Hawgood scoring from a back-pass by Mitton; but Australia's security was always threatened and the equalizer was obtained from a scramble which followed a short corner. Potter scoring after Shaw, a substitute, had hit a post.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Unhappy birthday

Sarah Hardcastle received some unwanted news on the eve of her 17th birthday yesterday when she was forced to withdraw from the British team for the Sun Life swimming international against the Soviet Union and The Netherlands at Coventry this weekend.

The double Olympic medal winner failed a fitness test on a pulled shoulder muscle. Gary Watson, the 17-year-old breaststroke swimmer from Glenrothes, has been denied his first Great Britain cap because of tonsillitis.

No 1 aim

Britain's Davis Cup tennis quarter-final against Australia is almost certain to be played at Wimbledon. The All-England Club's management committee meets tomorrow week to discuss the Lawn Tennis Association's request for the tie to be staged on grass, on No 1 court.



Hardcastle: injured

Cook hits six

Geoff Cook, the Northamptonshire cricketer, reported back yesterday to start his 16th season at Northampton and set a county record as captain for the sixth season in succession.

£50,000 move

Whitehaven, the Cumbrian second division Rugby League club, have made a move in the region of £50,000 for Rob Ackerman, the Welsh international Rugby Union centre.

Reardon woe

Ray Reardon's miserable snooker season suffered another setback yesterday as he was bundled out of the first round of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters at County Kildare. The six-times former world champion was beaten 5-2 by the London-based Dubliner, Eugene Hughes.

Title bout

Copenhagen (Reuters) — Steffen Tangstad, of Norway, the former champion, will meet Andre van den Oetelaar, of The Netherlands, for the vacant European heavyweight boxing title in Randers, Denmark, on April 18.

Wright out

Colombo (Reuters) — John Wright, the New Zealand captain, was yesterday ruled out of this week's inaugural Australasia cricket tournament in Sharjah after fracturing his right hand while fielding against Pakistan here on Monday.

Great expectations



Bred to win: A six-day-old colt with his mother, All Along, one-time winner of the Prix Arc de L'Triomphe. The father is deceased Epsom Derby winner, Mill Reef, which makes the foal a priceless commodity. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Past masters of the tennis trade offer fresh hope to British youngsters

The wise men make their point

In the second of two articles, REX BELLAMY, our Tennis Correspondent, enjoys the company and the acquired wisdom of two once-great doubles champions, Ken Fletcher and Frew McMillan. Both are based in Britain and have strong views about British tennis.

Anyone who plays tennis in a cap and bits almost every shot two-fisted is almost ostentatiously eccentric. There is much of that in Frew McMillan's nature, too. Behind that somewhat saturnine mien is one of the sharpest minds in tennis, plus a dry, quirky wit embellished by irony and paradox. One way and another, McMillan knows how to make a point. The other day he told me, in effect, that the British did not take Wimbledon seriously enough.

"On our doorstep, in our homes, we have the greatest tournament in the world," he explained, "but British players do not prepare for it well enough. For a month or more before Wimbledon, the players and management of British tennis should be directing every ounce of effort to doing as well as they possibly can. The players ought to have severe, Hopman-type training, as if for a World Cup of tennis every year. The eyes of the world are upon them. If they are going to make any kind of break-through it would do their confidence far more good to make it at Wimbledon. If you do that, the money comes back to you in the long run."

One British player, Sara Gomer, made a sudden leap forward in Brisbane last November under the tutelage of Ken Fletcher. "She practised hard, did things on grass that she should have been doing before, and had a couple of good wins," Fletcher says.

Sue Mappin, the women's national team manager, has engaged Fletcher to help three promising girls in their late teens. "English girls are behind the rest of the world," the genial Queenslander asserts, "because they are just finding out, now, the things they should have learned at 14 and 15 — technically, plus the court craft. Ordinary little things make all the difference but there's nobody around to tell them."

"There are kids of 16 and 17 who don't know how to win points from particular positions. In our day we knew exactly what we were going to do. We might not win the point — but we knew the play. Apart from having the talent to play it, tennis is a very psychological game. A lot of kids can whack the ball up and down the court but you need a bit more than that."

Fletcher and McMillan certainly had a bit more than that, and each has cause to respect the other. "Ken is one of those guys who invoke a chuckle," McMillan says, "and he's somebody I will never forget — because it was against him that I won by first Wimbledon title. He was a typical Aussie, with that innate Aussie confidence — and

a great forehand, bit very hard with fairly heavy topspin." And let Fletcher remind us of prime McMillan: "His game suited doubles, because he was two-handed on both sides and could control the art of doubles, which he played to perfection. In singles he was limited because of his reach."

Both men had Bob Hewitt as a partner in Wimbledon and French finals. "He was a volatile person," Fletcher says, "flirting with understatement, but we got to the finals the only year we played. Bob was one of the best first-court players of that era." McMillan and Hewitt were Wimbledon champions three times. "Both were going to get beaten, that forehand — besides your own faults — was the side they would exploit, which they did in the final. But it was a one-off and we nearly won. I was pleased to play with two such great players."

There is no time — more precisely, space — to stroll any further down Memory Lane in the wise and witty company of Ken and Frew Donald McMillan. Perhaps we can get back to them (and to Fletcher's "golden rules") later. All that strictly matters for the moment is that these former champions are based in England and are ready to advance the tennis education of the young. If only British tennis was as rich in gifted athletics and racket-handlers as it is in present and potential coaches.

Court-Fletcher team was almost invincible. "Margaret was the best lady around, along with Billie Jean King. She was a tall girl and would cover her lob. You always knew where you stood. So we played to the golden rules, a perfect example of playing mixed as if it was men's doubles. But she used to get nervous, especially in finals. You had to keep her up."

"Buono had great touch and was a great volley player. But like Goolagong, she had a weakness on the forehand (whereas Margaret could come over it a little bit and bit it hard) and you felt that if you were going to get beaten, that forehand — besides your own faults — was the side they would exploit, which they did in the final. But it was a one-off and we nearly won. I was pleased to play with two such great players."

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London stage for Seko return

By Pat Batchelor Athletics Correspondent

Toshihiko Seko, one of the great Japanese marathoners of recent years, is to run the London event on April 20, his first marathon since his disappointment of finishing fourth at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984.

Under the tutelage of Dr Kiyoshi Nakamura, who acted as a Zen master to him as much as a coach, Seko won the Fukuoka Marathon three times in succession, from 1978 to 1980, on the last occasion running the second half of the race in 63min 30sec, still the fastest "negative split" (in which an athlete runs the second half of a race faster than the first).

Seko won the Boston Marathon in 2hr 9min 26sec. Then in early 1983, in Tokyo, the Japanese ran his fastest marathon time of 2:08:38, then the fifth fastest in the world. Two months later, in Christchurch, he set world track records for the 25km and 30km, but chose to miss the first world championship marathon in Helsinki later that year, as did his compatriots, the Soh twins, in order to prepare for the Olympics.

But going into the Olympic race with five successive victories, Seko managed only fourth place. There was already an incipient split with Dr Nakamura over whether Seko should get married before or after Los Angeles. Doctor Nakamura died while swimming last year; many felt it may have been suicide.

Seko's principal adversaries in London will include Christopher Flerle, of West Germany, Pat Peterson, of the United States, and three former winners, Inge Simonsen, of Norway (1981); Hugh Jones (1982) and Mike Gratten (1983); Charlie Spedding and Steve Jones, winners in 1984 and 1985, have been pre-selected for the English Commonwealth Games team for Edinburgh and the British European championship team for Stuttgart respectively.

Grete Waitz, of Norway, will be the favourite for the women's race, although the form of Veronique Pfundt, the French woman who became a British citizen two years ago and the holder of the national best of 2:28:04, suggests that she could get as close as any British marathon runner to Mrs Waitz.

Wimbledon tops the £2m mark

By Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent

Wimbledon's 100th men's singles champion will win £140,000, an increase of £10,000 on last year's figure. The women's champion will receive £112,000 compared with £117,000 a year ago. The total prize fund, which is something of a misnomer because it includes sums other than those paid to Wimbledon competitors, has been raised from £1,934,760 in 1985 to £2,119,780. This represents an increase of 9.56 per cent in sterling and, because of adjustments in the exchange rate, 21.73 per cent in dollars.

The prize money allocated to the eight senior events will be £1,911,260, with the following percentages: men's singles, 38.09; women's singles, 31.60; men's doubles, 10.74; women's doubles, 8.60; mixed doubles, 5.03; men's 35 and over singles, 3.15; doubles, 1.69; and women's 1.10.

Other than the fact that Wimbledon continues to be an international line giving the doubles shamefully low percentages, the most controversial point is that the £83,520 allocated to the men's and women's qualifying competitions is not far short of the £96,120 awarded to that popular championship event, the mixed doubles.

The first Wimbledon tournament, in 1877, was restricted to men's singles. The 100th, from June 23 to July 6, will be marked in several ways. The most enterprising and enduring innovation will be a "Last 8 Club", a marquee reserved for the relaxation and refreshment of players who have achieved what the title implies by reaching the singles quarter-finals or the doubles semi-finals.

The championships will probably be swiftly succeeded by another big event, the Davis Cup tie between Britain and Australia, from July 18 to 20. The All England Club have yet to give their formal approval but it is almost certain that this will be the first Davis Cup tie played at Wimbledon since Italy beat Britain 4-1 in 1976.

YACHTING

Cape Town excluded

When the 13-strong Whitbread Round the World race fleet set out from Punta del Este in Uruguay this afternoon on the final 6,281-mile final stage back to Portsmouth, the 13 crews and their sponsors leave Rear Admiral Charles Williams, the race chairman, with a painful decision to make on the next race in 1989 (Barry Pickthall writes).

Two weeks ago, the South African-born admiral defiantly announced that Cape Town, the traditional first port of call, would be among the stopover ports next time, despite the political uncertainty in the region.

But at a meeting of skippers held this week, pressure from sponsors — not least Whitbread — has forced him to announce that it was now 99 per cent certain that the South African port would not be included.

TABLE TENNIS

Return to top flight

England healed a wound when they beat Denmark 5-0 in the European championships in Prague yesterday (A Special Correspondent writes). The victory ensured they regained at the first attempt the top-category status they lost for the first time in Moscow two years ago.

Desmond Douglas, the national champion, and Alan Cooke, the No 3, both won twice and Carl Prean once against the Danes Douglas and Prean were subsequently

rested from the match against Belgium which decided, for those who were interested, top place in the category.

Joy Grundy, the national champion, produced two wins in a 3-1 victory over the Netherlands that ensured the women finished either fifth or sixth.

In the semi-finals, France came from 2-4 down to beat Poland 5-4, a repeat of their win in last year's final, and will now meet Sweden the favourites.